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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE, MARIELA  
GONZÁLEZ, FREDDY JOSE ARAPE  
RIVAS, M.H., CECILIA DANIELA  
GONZÁLEZ HERRERA, ALBA CECILIA  
PURICA HERNÁNDEZ, E.R., HENDRINA  
VIVAS CASTILLO, A.C.A., SHERIKA  
BLANC, VILES DORSAINVIL, and G.S.,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as  
Secretary of Homeland Security, UNITED  
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY, and UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA,

*Defendants.*

Case No. 3:25-cv-1766-EMC

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

**Administrative Procedure Act Case**

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## INTRODUCTION

1  
2           1.     This lawsuit presents a challenge to Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Secretary Kristi Noem’s decisions to deprive 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians  
3 protected by Temporary Protected Status (“TPS”) of the right to live and work legally in the  
4 United States for the eighteen-month periods lawfully authorized by her predecessor. Secretary  
5 Noem’s attempt to “vacate” this statutorily authorized humanitarian protection for more than a  
6 million people who rely on it for their safety and livelihood is unprecedented and unlawful.  
7

8           2.     Secretary Noem took two illegal actions concerning Venezuela’s TPS within one  
9 week of assuming her role at the head of DHS. Three days after her confirmation, she “vacated”  
10 an extension of TPS protections for Venezuelans residing in the United States, just weeks after the  
11 extension was duly published in the Federal Register. Two days later, she terminated TPS for the  
12 Venezuelans who initially registered in 2023. These actions have the effect of robbing 600,000  
13 Venezuelan TPS holders of the right to live and work in this country for the next eighteen months.  
14 Approximately 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders stand to lose this humanitarian legal status on  
15 April 7, 2025, and their work authorization as soon as April 2, 2025. Secretary Noem announced  
16 the vacatur decision in an exclusive interview she gave to Fox News, saying that “the people of  
17 this country want these dirt bags out.”

18           3.     On February 20, 2025—less than a month into her tenure—Secretary Noem  
19 announced a third unlawful TPS decision, this time for Haiti, by enacting a “partial vacatur” of the  
20 July 1, 2024 extension and redesignation of Haiti for TPS. Under the July 2024 decision, Haitian  
21 TPS holders were entitled to protection until February 3, 2026. Secretary Noem cut Haiti’s  
22 designation period from eighteen months to twelve months, advancing the end of TPS for eligible  
23 Haitian nationals to August 3, 2025.

24           4.     Secretary Noem’s action was in keeping with President Donald Trump’s threats and  
25 false claims about Haiti. During his campaign, in response to a question about Haitian TPS  
26 holders, President Trump asserted he would “revoke” TPS to remove people who were  
27 “destroy[ing] our country.” President Trump also repeatedly amplified the false and racist claim  
28 that Haitian TPS holders were eating dogs and cats.

1           5. Plaintiffs in this case are the National TPS Alliance (“NTPSA”), a member-led  
2 organization representing TPS holders across the country, including individuals from Venezuela  
3 and Haiti who have TPS (“Individual Plaintiffs”). These individuals cannot return safely to their  
4 country of origin. TPS allows them to live and work lawfully in the United States. They represent  
5 the diverse population of Venezuelans and Haitians who have relied on TPS to provide them the  
6 most basic forms of human security—a stable place to live and a chance to work for a living  
7 during this time of severe crisis in their home countries. They are educators, laborers, health care  
8 workers, caretakers, and advocates; parents, students, and children. They live all across the  
9 country, with homes, children, families, jobs, and deep community ties. If Secretary Noem’s TPS  
10 termination goes into effect, they will be subject to deportation yet unable to return safely to their  
11 home countries; and without legal authorization to live or work in the United States.

12           6. The Secretary’s actions are illegal for multiple reasons. At the outset, DHS has no  
13 authority to “vacate” a prior TPS extension—in whole or in part. The TPS statute tightly regulates  
14 the conditions under which TPS decisions can be made, setting time periods and other procedural  
15 rules that must be followed for both extensions and terminations. The agency does not have  
16 implicit authority to accomplish the same objectives on whatever timeframe it wants, and without  
17 following the requisite procedures.

18           7. Even if DHS did have such authority, the reasons provided by the Secretary to  
19 vacate the extension are arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and inexplicably  
20 deviate from past practice in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”). For instance,  
21 contrary to the claims made in the Federal Register, there was nothing unusual about either the  
22 timing of the now-vacated extension for Venezuela or the justifications provided for the July 2024  
23 extension and redesignation of Haiti. Nor did the prior decisions on Venezuela and Haiti’s TPS  
24 designations suffer from any of the other purported defects on which Secretary Noem relied to  
25 justify her decisions—defects which, in any event, should have been resolved by alternatives short  
26 of vacatur.

27           8. The three unlawful orders—the vacatur orders for Venezuela and Haiti, and the  
28 termination decision for Venezuela—suffer from additional defects as well. Among others,

DHS’s decisions rest on the assumption that TPS is itself illegal, and that Venezuelans and Haitians with TPS are in the United States illegally. This error is evident on the face of the decisions. It is also evident from statements made by Secretary Noem. Before she assumed leadership of DHS, she—along with President Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and high-level Trump advisors—made plain their position that TPS was “illegal,” that persons protected by TPS are here “illegally,” and that this justified their plan to terminate TPS. She reiterated that statement in announcing the decision to partially vacate the 2024 Haiti redesignation and extension. But the Secretary’s disdain for TPS and TPS holders cannot nullify a statute.

9. The Secretary’s decisions also were motivated at least in part by racial animus, in contravention of the Fifth Amendment. That is clear from statements the Secretary made when announcing the Venezuela decisions themselves, labeling Venezuelan TPS holders as “dirtbags”—an expression of racism made by the official decisionmaker as part of her explanation for the decision. Making matters worse, that statement is just one among a torrent of similar racist statements that Secretary Noem, President Trump, and members of the Trump campaign and administration have made to attack and marginalize non-white immigrants generally, and the Venezuelan and Haitian TPS communities in particular.

10. For each of these reasons, this Court should set aside the agency’s unlawful vacatur and termination orders, and reinstate the prior extension.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. 1331 because this action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States. This Court has additional remedial authority under the Declaratory Judgment Act<sup>1</sup> and the Administrative Procedure Act.<sup>2</sup> Article III and the Fifth Amendment independently grant this Court subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ Fifth Amendment claim.

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<sup>1</sup> See 28 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> 5 U.S.C. 701–706.

12. The federal government has waived its sovereign immunity and permitted judicial review of agency action under 5 U.S.C. 702.<sup>3</sup> In addition, sovereign immunity does not bar claims against federal officials seeking to prevent violations of federal law (rather than monetary relief).<sup>4</sup>

13. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California under 28 U.S.C. 1391(e)(1) because at least one Plaintiff resides in this judicial district and each Defendant is an agency of the United States or an officer of the United States sued in his or her official capacity.

### **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

14. Assignment is proper in the San Francisco division because the claims of Plaintiffs that reside in this judicial district arise in Alameda and San Mateo Counties.<sup>5</sup>

### **THE PARTIES**

#### **Plaintiffs**

15. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance (NTPSA)** is a member-led organization whose mission is to defend the TPS program and win a path to permanent residency for TPS holders. NTPSA is fiscally sponsored by the Central American Resource Center - CARECEN - of California, a non-profit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, California, which has worked for more than four decades to provide immigrant integration programs, deliver immigration legal services, and foster civic participation and community engagement on immigration policy, education reform, and workers' rights.

16. NTPSA advocates to defend TPS and win a path to permanent status for TPS holders, organizes actions to raise public awareness about TPS and the contributions TPS holders make to this country, facilitates community and civic engagement by TPS holders, and provides access to timely and accurate TPS-related information and services to its members. Membership in the NTPSA is free and voluntary. Individuals can become NTPSA members either by joining a local NTPSA committee or by submitting an individual membership application. NTPSA's

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<sup>3</sup> See *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) v. United States*, 870 F.2d 518, 525 (9th Cir. 1989).

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., *Larson v. Domestic & Foreign Com. Corp.*, 337 U.S. 682, 697–99 & nn.18–19 (1949); *Shields v. Utah Idaho Cent. R.R. Co.*, 305 U.S. 177, 183–84 (1938).

<sup>5</sup> Civil Local Rule 3-2(d) and 3-5(b).

1 members set the organization's priorities, lead and participate in NTPSA's local committees and  
2 working groups, and select and serve on NTPSA's Executive Committee.

3 17. NTPSA brings this action on behalf of its members. The vast majority of NTPSA's  
4 members are TPS holders, including TPS holders from Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar),  
5 Cameroon, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela,  
6 and Yemen; the rest are family members of TPS holders and other individuals who wish to  
7 support the TPS community. The NTPSA has over 130,000 Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holder  
8 members living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They face irreparable harm from the  
9 challenged vacatur and termination.

10 18. **Plaintiff Mariela González** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2021  
11 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS and work  
12 authorization on September 10, 2025. She is a resident of San Mateo County, California, and has  
13 lived in the United States for the past fourteen years. Mariela works as an instructional coach with  
14 an urban school district. Her mother, father, brother, sister, and nephews all live in the United  
15 States and are U.S. citizens. She is an NTPSA member.

16 19. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023  
17 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing his TPS  
18 on April 7, 2025. He applied to renew his TPS and work authorization on January 17, 2025,  
19 pursuant to the now-vacated extension of TPS for Venezuelans. USCIS already automatically  
20 extended his employment authorization for up to 540 days in response to his application. But the  
21 new Federal Register notice vacating the January 17 extension provides that "USCIS will  
22 invalidate EADs" and TPS-related documentation issued pursuant to the January extension. Thus,  
23 Freddy's work authorization is at risk of expiring on April 2, 2025. Freddy lives in Collin County,  
24 Texas, and works for a technology company. He has family in Texas, including a cousin who,  
25 along with his wife and seven-year-old daughter, also have TPS. He is an NTPSA member.

26 20. **Plaintiff M.H.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and, as a  
27 result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS status on April 7,  
28 2025. Her work authorization expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in a Tennessee suburb with her

1 husband and two children. Her seven-year-old daughter also has TPS. Her husband, an engineer, is  
 2 a U.S. citizen employed by a government subcontractor, and together they have a two-year-old  
 3 U.S. citizen son. M.H. is a full-time caregiver for her two young children. Her driver's license  
 4 expires when her TPS does, and she depends on it for her daily needs. She is an NTPSA member.

5 21. **Plaintiff Cecilia Daniela González Herrera** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under  
 6 the 2021 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur, is at risk of losing her TPS on  
 7 September 10, 2025. She lives with her parents and younger brother in Kissimmee, Florida, and is  
 8 a derivative applicant on her parents' long-pending asylum application. She is a student at the  
 9 University of Central Florida and expects to graduate with a bachelor's degree in May. She is also  
 10 employed as the Voting Rights Advocacy Coordinator for Latino Justice PRLDEF. She is an  
 11 NTPSA member.

12 22. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernández** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the  
 13 2023 designation and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her  
 14 work authorization on April 2, 2025 and TPS on April 7, 2025. She had been a university student  
 15 in Venezuela. She lives in San Leandro, California and works as a childcare provider. She is an  
 16 NTPSA member.

17 23. **Plaintiff E.R.** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023 designation and is at  
 18 risk of losing her TPS on April 7, 2025 and her work authorization on April 2, 2025. She is a  
 19 single parent to a twelve-year-old daughter, who is also a TPS holder. She lives in New York,  
 20 where she works in a factory. She relies on TPS for her work authorization and legal status. She is  
 21 an NTPSA member.

22 24. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a Venezuelan who has TPS under the 2023  
 23 designation, and, as a result of the challenged vacatur and termination, is at risk of losing her TPS  
 24 on April 7, 2025. Her work permit expires on April 2, 2025. She lives in Culver City, California  
 25 and works as a delivery driver. She is an NTPSA member.

26 25. **Plaintiff A.C.A.** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Miami, Florida who has TPS  
 27 pursuant to the 2021 designation of Haiti. A.C.A. has lived in the United States since he was  
 28 fifteen years old; he is now thirty. His mother and brothers are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent



1 residents. A.C.A. works in healthcare administration and attends college, where he studies  
 2 accounting on a full scholarship. Without TPS, A.C.A. would be left without work authorization,  
 3 protection against deportation, or the ability to attend college, where he relies on TPS for in-state  
 4 tuition. A.C.A. is an NTPSA member.

5 26. **Plaintiff Sherika Blanc** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Kentucky who has TPS  
 6 under the 2010 designation of Haiti for TPS. She is the mother of four U.S. citizen children and is  
 7 married to a U.S. citizen spouse. Sherika is 34 years old and has lived in the United States since  
 8 she was eight. She is a certified nursing assistant and works as a medical coordinator. She also  
 9 owns her own nail salon. She relies on TPS for legal status and work authorization. Sherika was a  
 10 plaintiff in *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case No. 3:18-cv-1554 (EMC), and is an NTPSA member.

11 27. **Plaintiff Viles Dorsainvil** is a Haitian TPS holder living in Springfield, Ohio, who  
 12 has TPS under the 2021 designation of Haiti for TPS. He is a former pastor and the director of the  
 13 Haitian Community Help & Support Center, a nonprofit founded to assist the Haitian immigrant  
 14 community in Springfield. Viles has emerged as a national leader for the Haitian community,  
 15 speaking out against the targeted and repeated attacks by President Trump and Vice President  
 16 Vance against Haitian TPS holders in Springfield during the 2024 presidential campaign. Viles  
 17 relies on TPS for work authorization and protection against deportation. He is an NTPSA member.

18 28. **Plaintiff G.S.** is a Haitian who has TPS under the 2024 designation of Haiti for TPS.  
 19 He is a 30-year-old medical doctor trained in Haiti who hopes to someday become licensed to  
 20 practice medicine in the United States. Currently, he works as a case manager for the State of  
 21 Massachusetts, assisting low-income residents in securing housing. G.S., fluent in English, Creole,  
 22 and French and proficient in Spanish, works with many immigrants and utilizes his language skills  
 23 to assist his clients. He relies on TPS for his legal status. He is an NTPSA member.

#### 24 **Defendants**

25 29. **Defendant Kristi Noem**, sued in her official capacity, is the Secretary of Homeland  
 26 Security. As the highest-ranking officer for DHS, Defendant Noem has ultimate statutory  
 27  
 28

1 authority over all TPS extension, termination, and designation decisions.<sup>6</sup>

2 30. **Defendant U.S. Department of Homeland Security** is a cabinet-level department  
3 of the Executive Branch of the federal government and is an “agency” within the meaning of 5  
4 U.S.C. 551(1). DHS includes various component agencies, including the U.S. Citizenship and  
5 Immigration Services (“USCIS”). DHS, together with all of its component agencies, is responsible  
6 for administering and enforcing the TPS program.

7 31. **Defendant United States of America** includes all other government agencies and  
8 departments responsible for the implementation, administration, and change in policy concerning  
9 the TPS program.

### 10 STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

11 32. Congress established the Temporary Protected Status program in the Immigration  
12 Act of 1990.<sup>7</sup> TPS is a form of humanitarian relief, providing lawful immigration status to eligible  
13 foreign nationals who cannot safely return home to war-torn or disaster-stricken countries. By  
14 enacting the TPS statute, which is codified at 8 U.S.C. 1254a, Congress established formal criteria  
15 for relief and set forth predictable procedures.<sup>8</sup>

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17  
18  
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21 <sup>6</sup> See 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b); 6 U.S.C. 557 (transferring functions from the Attorney General).

22 <sup>7</sup> Pub. L. No. 101-649, § 302, 104 Stat. 4978, 5030–36.

23 <sup>8</sup> Before Congress created TPS, the Executive Branch previously used *ad hoc* enforcement  
24 mechanisms to allow individuals to remain in the United States for humanitarian reasons. See  
25 Adam B. Cox & Cristina M. Rodríguez, *The President and Immigration Law*, 119 Yale L.J. 458,  
26 501–03 (2009) (discussing use of the “parole power,” which is currently codified at 8 U.S.C.  
27 1182(d)(5)); Lynda J. Oswald, *Extended Voluntary Departure: Limiting the Attorney General’s*  
28 *Discretion in Immigration Matters*, 85 Mich. L. Rev. 152 (1986) (discussing use of “Extended  
Voluntary Departure”). Presidents have continued to employ such programs even after the  
creation of TPS. For example, President Trump exercised his discretion to designate Venezuela  
for “Deferred Enforced Departure” in 2020. Somewhat like TPS, deferred enforced departure  
allows foreign nationals to remain and work in the United States lawfully while conditions in their  
homeland are unsafe or return is impracticable.

33. Under the TPS statute, the Secretary of Homeland Security<sup>9</sup> makes a “designation” decision for a given country.<sup>10</sup> After consulting with “appropriate” government agencies, the Secretary may designate a foreign state, or any part of that state, for TPS based on: (A) an “ongoing armed conflict within the state” that would “pose a serious threat” to the “personal safety” of the foreign nationals of that state; (B) an “earthquake, flood, drought, epidemic, or other environmental disaster in the state resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of living conditions,” which makes the foreign state “unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return to the state” of its nationals, and where the foreign state has “officially” requested a designation; or (C) the existence of “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state” that prevent foreign nationals from safely returning, and where the temporary presence of those foreign nationals in the United States is not “contrary to the national interest of the United States.”<sup>11</sup>

34. An initial designation period for a given country lasts for six, twelve, or eighteen months, at the Secretary’s discretion.<sup>12</sup> Before the designation can become effective, the Secretary must publish a notice in the Federal Register that includes, among other things, a statement of findings, the effective date of the designation, and a tally of eligible foreign nationals.<sup>13</sup> Once the designation is ordered, it “shall remain in effect” for a period “of not less than 6 months,” and remains operative until terminated under procedures specified in the statute.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> References to the Attorney General in provisions describing functions transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security “shall be deemed to refer to the Secretary” of Homeland Security. *See* 6 U.S.C. 557.

<sup>10</sup> The agency has long recognized authority to designate a country more than once, which is called “redesignation.” *See* Extension of Designation and Redesignation of Liberia Under Temporary Protected Status Program, 62 Fed. Reg. 16608, 16609 (Apr. 7, 1997) (concluding that the TPS statute “explicitly contemplates more than one designation” for one country because 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(1)(A)(i) refers to “the most recent designation of the state”). A TPS designation for a country that is already designated for TPS is called a “redesignation.” When DHS redesignates a country for TPS, it generally has the effect of expanding the pool of potential beneficiaries to include individuals who came to the United States after the country was first designated for TPS.

<sup>11</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1).

<sup>12</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(2), (b)(3)(C).

<sup>13</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)(C).

<sup>14</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(2).

35. Once the Secretary has designated a particular country for TPS, individuals from that country (or persons without nationality who last habitually resided in that country) may apply for immigration status under the program. To be eligible for TPS, however, individuals from a designated country must meet stringent requirements. These requirements include, among other things, continuous physical presence in the United States from the most recent date of designation; continuous residence in the United States from a (potentially earlier) date designated by the Secretary; satisfaction of the criteria for admissibility as an immigrant; lack of disqualifying criminal history (where more than one misdemeanor or a single felony is disqualifying); and submission of an application, extensive documentation, and fees.<sup>15</sup>

36. Congress ensured that individuals who are ultimately granted protected status could enjoy the freedom to live and work in the United States without fear of deportation. Under the statute's clear directives, an individual who receives and maintains TPS "shall [be] authorize[d]" to engage in employment in the United States; "shall not be detained" by the Secretary of Homeland Security on the basis of immigration status; and "shall not [be] remove[d]" from the United States by the Department of Homeland Security.<sup>16</sup>

37. The TPS statute requires the Secretary to periodically re-evaluate country designations. At least 60 days before a particular designation expires, the Secretary must "review the conditions in the foreign state . . . for which a designation is in effect" and determine whether the country still meets the conditions for TPS.<sup>17</sup> The review requires "consultation with appropriate agencies of the Government" and, ultimately, publication of notice in the Federal Register.<sup>18</sup>

38. The review and consultation process typically begins months before the 60-day deadline. First,

RAIO [the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate]

<sup>15</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(1); 8 C.F.R. 244.2, 244.4, 244.9.

<sup>16</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(1), (d)(4).

<sup>17</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

(a division within USCIS) provides a Country Conditions Memo. In addition, OP&S [Office of Policy and Strategy] (another division within USCIS) drafts a Decision Memo that contains USCIS's recommendation on what to do about the TPS designation. Once the Decision Memo is finalized, the USCIS Director passes it on to the DHS Secretary. The State Department provides further input (*e.g.*, country conditions, recommendations). At times, input can also come from other government sources, but the above is the information consistently provided to the DHS Secretary.<sup>19</sup>

39. The Secretary must terminate TPS only if the designated country “no longer continues to meet the conditions for designation.”<sup>20</sup> The statute does not permit consideration of other grounds for termination. The effective date of any TPS termination must be at least 60 days after publication of an official notice of termination, and may not precede the expiry of “the most recent previous extension.”<sup>21</sup> In other words, the statute does not permit the Secretary to cut short a TPS period. The Secretary may, however, extend the period “to provide for an orderly transition.”<sup>22</sup>

40. If the Secretary does not terminate TPS for a particular country, either because she affirmatively finds that the country continues to meet the conditions for designation or because she simply fails to make a decision, then the designation “is extended” for a period of six months, or by discretion of the Secretary, for a period of twelve or eighteen months.<sup>23</sup>

41. When a designation for a particular country is terminated, an individual TPS holder's status will typically revert back to their original immigration status so long as that status remains valid.

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<sup>19</sup> *Ramos v. Nielsen*, 336 F. Supp. 3d 1075, 1082 (N.D. Cal. 2018).

<sup>20</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B).

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3).

<sup>23</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(C).

**IN UNPRECEDENTED ACTIONS, DHS VACATED LAWFUL TPS EXTENSIONS FOR  
VENEZUELA AND HAITI; AND TERMINATED TPS FOR VENEZUELAN TPS  
HOLDERS TO WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED RENEWED  
PROTECTION ONLY WEEKS EARLIER**

**Venezuela TPS Designations**

**Venezuela 2021 and 2023 TPS Designations**

42. Venezuelans living in the United States first received temporary protection from removal on January 19, 2021, when President Trump—on the last day of his first Administration—directed the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to “take appropriate measures to defer for 18 months the removal of any national of Venezuela . . . who is present in the United States as of January 20, 2021,” with limited exceptions, and “to take appropriate measures to authorize employment for aliens whose removal has been deferred, as provided by this memorandum, for the duration of such deferral.”<sup>24</sup>

43. In designating Venezuela for Deferred Enforced Departure, President Trump declared:

[T]he Maduro regime is responsible for the worst humanitarian crisis in the Western Hemisphere in recent memory. A catastrophic economic crisis and shortages of basic goods and medicine have forced about five million Venezuelans to flee the country, often under dangerous conditions. . . . The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States.<sup>25</sup>

44. On March 9, 2021 (under the Biden Administration), DHS designated Venezuela for TPS based on the Secretary’s determination that “extraordinary and temporary conditions in the foreign state prevent [Venezuelans] from returning safely” and “permitting [Venezuelans] to remain temporarily in the United States” is not “contrary to the national interest of the United

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<sup>24</sup> Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Venezuelans, 86 Fed. Reg. 6845, 6845 (Jan. 19, 2021).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

1 States.”<sup>26</sup> The Secretary found that “Venezuela is currently facing a severe humanitarian  
2 emergency” and:

3 [H]as been in the midst of a severe political and economic crisis for  
4 several years . . . marked by a wide range of factors including: Economic  
5 contraction; inflation and hyperinflation; deepening poverty; high levels  
6 of unemployment; reduced access to and shortages of food and  
7 medicine; a severely weakened medical system; the reappearance or  
8 increased incidence of certain communicable diseases; a collapse in  
9 basic services; water, electricity, and fuel shortages; political  
polarization; institutional and political tensions; human rights abuses  
and repression; crime and violence; corruption; increased human  
mobility and displacement (including internal migration, emigration,  
and return); and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, among other  
factors.<sup>27</sup>

10 45. Also on March 9, 2021, via the same Federal Register notice, DHS provided  
11 employment authorization for Venezuelans covered by Deferred Enforced Departure.<sup>28</sup>

12 46. The 2021 Venezuela Designation allowed eligible Venezuelans who had  
13 continuously resided in the United States since March 8, 2021 and been physically present in the  
14 United States since March 9, 2021 to apply for TPS.<sup>29</sup>

15 47. On July 11, 2022, DHS issued a press release announcing then-Secretary Alejandro  
16 Mayorkas’s decision to extend Venezuela’s TPS designation. The press release instructed:

17 Venezuelans who are currently eligible for TPS under the existing  
18 designation but may have not yet applied with U.S. Citizenship and  
19 Immigration Services (USCIS) should file their applications prior to the  
20 September 9, 2022, application deadline, including those Venezuelans  
who are covered under the January 2021 grant of Deferred Enforced  
Departure (DED). Venezuela’s DED is set to expire July 20, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

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23 <sup>26</sup> Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status and Implementation of Employment  
24 Authorization for Venezuelans Covered by Deferred Enforced Departure, 86 Fed. Reg. 13574,  
13575 (Mar. 9, 2021) (“2021 Venezuela Designation”).

25 <sup>27</sup> *Id.* at 13576 (internal citation and quotation marks omitted).

26 <sup>28</sup> *Id.* at 13579.

27 <sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 13575.

28 <sup>30</sup> See Press Release, *DHS Announces Extension of Temporary Protected Status for Venezuela*,  
DHS (July 11, 2022), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2022/07/11/dhs-announces-extension-temporary-protected-status-venezuela>.



48. Venezuela's Deferred Enforced Departure expired on July 20, 2022. Every person who had been eligible for it was by then eligible for TPS, provided they could satisfy the more stringent background check criteria required for TPS.

49. On September 8, 2022, DHS extended Venezuela's TPS designation for eighteen months, through March 10, 2024.<sup>31</sup> The Secretary found that extension was warranted due to ongoing "[e]xtraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety includ[ing] severe economic and political crises ongoing within Venezuela, which have an impact across sectors, including limited access to food, basic services, and adequate healthcare, and the deterioration of the rule of law and protection of human rights."<sup>32</sup> The Secretary also determined that "it is not contrary to the national interest of the United States to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States temporarily."<sup>33</sup> However, because the decision was only an extension, and not also a redesignation, it did not provide protection to Venezuelans who had arrived in the United States after March 9, 2021.

50. On October 3, 2023, DHS again extended the 2021 designation of Venezuela for eighteen months, and also redesignated Venezuela for TPS for eighteen months.<sup>34</sup> The extension of the 2021 designation ran from March 11, 2024 to September 10, 2025. The new 2023 redesignation ran from October 3, 2023 through April 2, 2025. The Secretary found that:

[E]xtraordinary and temporary conditions continue to prevent Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety due to a severe humanitarian emergency which has resulted in food insecurity and the inability to access adequate medicine, healthcare, water, electricity, and fuel. Additionally, human rights violations and abuses, high levels of poverty, high levels of crime and violence, and heavy rains and flooding prevent Venezuelan nationals from returning in safety and permitting Venezuelan noncitizens to remain in the United States temporarily would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Extension of the Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 87 Fed. Reg. 55024, 55024 (Sept. 8, 2022).

<sup>32</sup> *Id.* at 55026.

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* at 55027.

<sup>34</sup> Extension and Redesignation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 88 Fed. Reg. 68130, 68130 (Oct. 3, 2023) ("2023 Venezuela Designation").

<sup>35</sup> *Id.* at 68134.



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2 51. In order to qualify under the 2023 Venezuela Designation, TPS applicants had to  
3 prove that they had continuously resided in the United States since July 31, 2023 and had been  
4 continuously physically present since October 3, 2023.<sup>36</sup>

5 52. All individuals who were eligible for TPS under the 2021 Designation were also  
6 eligible for TPS under the 2023 Designation, provided they registered in accordance with DHS  
7 instructions.

8 53. DHS estimated that 243,000 Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries who first registered for  
9 TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation were eligible to re-register for TPS under its  
10 extension.<sup>37</sup>

11 54. In addition, DHS estimated “approximately 472,000 additional individuals may be  
12 eligible for TPS under the redesignation of Venezuela. This population includes Venezuelan  
13 nationals in the United States in nonimmigrant status or without immigration status.”<sup>38</sup> Such  
14 individuals were not eligible under the first designation because they arrived after March 9, 2021.

15 **January 2025 TPS Extension for Venezuela**

16 55. On January 17, 2025, Secretary Mayorkas extended the 2023 Venezuela Designation  
17 by eighteen months, through October 2, 2026.<sup>39</sup> The Secretary found that extraordinary and  
18 temporary conditions in Venezuela continued to prevent nationals from returning in safety. He  
19 explained:

20 Venezuela is experiencing a complex, serious and multidimensional  
21 humanitarian crisis. The crisis has reportedly disrupted every aspect of  
22 life in Venezuela. Basic services like electricity, internet access, and  
23 water are patchy; malnutrition is on the rise; the healthcare system has  
24 collapsed; and children receive poor or no education. Inflation rates are  
also among the highest in the world. Venezuela's complex crisis has  
pushed Venezuelans into poverty, hunger, poor health, crime,  
desperation and migration. Moreover, Nicolas Maduro's declaration of  
victory in the July 28, 2024 presidential election—which has been

25 <sup>36</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>37</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>38</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>39</sup> Extension of the 2023 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961, 5961 (Jan. 17, 2025) (“January 2025 Extension”).

1 contested as fraudulent by the opposition—has been followed by yet  
2 another sweeping crackdown on dissent.<sup>40</sup>

3 56. The Secretary also determined that “it is not contrary to the national interest of the  
4 United States to permit Venezuelan TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States  
5 temporarily.”<sup>41</sup>

6 57. The extension was effective immediately. The registration period opened that day  
7 and extended through September 10, 2025.<sup>42</sup>

8 58. The January 2025 Extension also explained that there would no longer be two  
9 separate filing processes for TPS designations for Venezuela. Rather:

10 To decrease confusion among stakeholders, ensure optimal operational  
11 processes, and maintain the same eligibility requirements, upon  
12 publication of this Notice, individuals registered under either the March  
13 9, 2021 TPS designation or the October 3, 2023 TPS designation will  
14 be allowed to re-register under this extension. This would not, however,  
15 require that a beneficiary registered under the March 9, 2021  
16 designation [] re-register at this time. Rather, it would provide such  
17 individuals with the option of doing so. Venezuela TPS beneficiaries  
18 who appropriately apply for TPS or re-register under this Notice and are  
19 approved by USCIS will obtain TPS through the same extension date of  
20 October 2, 2026.<sup>43</sup>

21 59. The January 2025 Extension also automatically extended relevant employment  
22 authorization documents. The notice instructed TPS holders that “if you already have an EAD  
23 with a ‘Card Expires’ date of September 10, 2025, April 2, 2025, March 10, 2024, or September 9,  
24 2022, this Federal Register notice automatically extends it through April 2, 2026 without any  
25 further action on your part.”<sup>44</sup> It further instructed employers that they “should accept” an expired  
26 EAD accompanied by a copy of the January 17, 2025 Federal Register notice as proof of work  
27 authorization through April 2, 2026.<sup>45</sup>

28 <sup>40</sup> *Id.* at 5963 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

<sup>41</sup> *Id.*

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 5968.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 5963.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* at 5967.

<sup>45</sup> *Id.* at 5969–70.

60. DHS estimated that, as of January 17, 2025, there were 607,000 beneficiaries under the 2021 and 2023 Venezuela Designations combined.<sup>46</sup>

**Vacatur of TPS Extension Three Days After Secretary Noem’s Confirmation**

61. On January 20, 2025, President Trump was sworn in as President of the United States.

62. That same day, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled “Protecting the American People Against Invasion.”<sup>47</sup> The “invasion” referenced in the order was the purported “unprecedented flood of illegal immigration into the United States.”<sup>48</sup> The Order mandated that TPS designations be “appropriately limited in scope” in order to ameliorate the “continued presence of illegal aliens in the United States”:

The Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly take all appropriate action, consistent with law, to rescind the policy decisions of the previous administration that led to the increased or continued presence of illegal aliens in the United States, and align any and all departmental activities with the policies set out by this order and the immigration laws. Such action should include, but is not limited to . . . ensuring that designations of Temporary Protected Status are consistent with the provisions of section 244 of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1254a), and that such designations are appropriately limited in scope and made for only so long as may be necessary to fulfill the textual requirements of that statute[.]<sup>49</sup>

63. On January 25, 2025, Secretary Noem was sworn in as DHS Secretary.

64. On January 28, 2025, Secretary Noem vacated the January 2025 Extension for Venezuela, rendering more than 600,000 Venezuelans vulnerable to the loss of legal status and associated benefits in April or September 2025.<sup>50</sup> By the vacatur, Secretary Noem “revert[ed] to the TPS redesignation and extension guidance” which had been announced in October 2023.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> *Id.* at 5966.

<sup>47</sup> Exec. Order No. 14159 (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-american-people-against-invasion/>.

<sup>48</sup> *Id.* § 1.

<sup>49</sup> *Id.* § 16(b).

<sup>50</sup> USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

<sup>51</sup> *Id.*

65. Secretary Noem’s decision was the first vacatur of a TPS extension in the 35-year history of the TPS statute.

66. On February 3, 2025, DHS formally published a notice in the Federal Register vacating the January 2025 Extension.<sup>52</sup>

67. The vacatur asserted that the Secretary has “inherent authority under the INA to reconsider any TPS-related determination, and upon reconsideration, to vacate or amend the determination.”<sup>53</sup>

68. In the vacatur, Secretary Noem did not find any error in Secretary Mayorkas’s conclusion that Venezuela continued to meet the conditions for TPS designation. Instead, her sole reason for vacating the extension was her objection to the registration requirement procedures established by Secretary Mayorkas, specifically his decision to permit individuals who initially applied for TPS under the 2021 Venezuela Designation to re-register under the 2023 Designation. Secretary Noem did not consider alternatives short of vacatur to resolve this purported problem.

69. Secretary Noem also implied that Secretary Mayorkas’ January 2025 extension notice was inconsistent with the statute, which requires that a designation “remain in effect until the effective date of the termination of the designation.”<sup>54</sup> But it is Secretary Noem’s vacatur, and not the January 2025 Extension, which results in the designation being terminated prematurely.

70. The vacatur states that it vacates: “(1) [the] extension of the Venezuela 2023 TPS designation, (2) the consolidation of filing processes for both designations, which, in effect, resulted in the extension of the 2021 TPS designation, and (3) the EADs that were extended.”<sup>55</sup>

71. The vacatur further rescinds the automatic extension of employment authorization granted by the January 2025 extension, invalidates employment authorization and approval notices already granted, and cancels the ongoing processing of applications already filed. The notice states:

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<sup>52</sup> Vacatur of 2025 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Venezuela, 90 Fed. Reg. 8805-01 (Feb. 3, 2025).

<sup>53</sup> *Id.* at 8806.

<sup>54</sup> *Id.* at 8807 (citing 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(2)(B)).

<sup>55</sup> *Id.*

Pursuant to this vacatur, USCIS will no longer accept Venezuela TPS re-registration applications (Form I-821) and associated Applications for Employment Authorization (Form I-765) filed under the [January 2025 Extension]. For TPS beneficiaries who have already filed applications to re-register for TPS pursuant to the [January 2025 Extension] and paid any fees associated with their applications, USCIS will cease processing their applications, and issue refunds of any fees paid by those aliens. Additionally, USCIS will invalidate EADs; Forms I-797, Notice of Action (Approval Notice); and Forms I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (collectively known as TPS-related documentation) that have been issued with October 2, 2026 expiration dates under the [January 2025 Extension]. USCIS will provide refunds to any fees paid by these aliens as well.

Additionally, pursuant to this vacatur the automatic EAD extensions provided in the [January 2025 Extension] are hereby rescinded. USCIS will provide additional guidance regarding the two Venezuela TPS designations on a future date in accordance with applicable laws.<sup>56</sup>

#### **Fast-Track Termination of TPS for 350,000 Venezuelans**

72. On February 1, 2025, Secretary Noem “decided to terminate” the 2023 Venezuela Designation, ordering an end to the legal status of approximately 350,000 Venezuelans, effective in April.<sup>57</sup>

73. The reasoning in Secretary Noem’s decision would also justify the termination of TPS for the approximately 250,000 people protected by the 2021 Venezuela Designation. Under the statute that decision must be made no later than July 2025.<sup>58</sup>

74. On February 5, 2025, DHS published a notice in the Federal Register terminating the 2023 Venezuela Designation.<sup>59</sup>

75. The termination notice does *not* contend that the crisis conditions supporting the 2023 Venezuela Designation have ended, assuming instead that “the relevant conditions in

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<sup>56</sup> *Id.*

<sup>57</sup> USCIS, *Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

<sup>58</sup> The statute requires a decision at least 60 days prior to the expiry of any particular TPS designation. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3).

<sup>59</sup> Termination of the October 3, 2023 Designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status, 90 Fed. Reg. 9040-01 (Feb. 5, 2025).

Venezuela remain both ‘extraordinary’ and ‘temporary.’”<sup>60</sup> Secretary Noem nonetheless “determined that Venezuela no longer continues to meet the conditions for the 2023 designation” because “it is contrary to the national interest to permit the covered Venezuelan nationals to remain temporarily in the United States.”<sup>61</sup>

76. But the statute does not allow the Secretary to terminate a TPS designation based on national interest. While the statute directs the Secretary to consider “the national interest of the United States” when *designating* a country for TPS based on extraordinary and temporary conditions,<sup>62</sup> subsequent review of the designation for purposes of either extension or termination is to be based solely on “the conditions in the foreign state,” not conditions in this country.<sup>63</sup> There is no precedent in the 35-year history of the TPS program for any designation being terminated on national interest grounds.

77. In her review of whether TPS for Venezuela is in the national interest, Secretary Noem cited President Trump’s directives—his Executive Order, “Protecting the American People Against Invasion,” his “recent, immigration and border-related executive orders and proclamations [which] clearly articulated an array of policy imperatives bearing upon the national interest,” his declaration of a “national emergency at the southern border,” and his directive to put “America and American citizens first.”<sup>64</sup>

78. Most TPS holders lack *any* criminal history. Indeed, individuals are ineligible for TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction. Yet the termination notice justifies terminating the status of nearly 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders because alleged members of a Venezuelan gang have been “blamed for sex trafficking, drug smuggling, police shootings, kidnappings, and the exploitation of migrants,” and because President Trump recently placed that

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<sup>60</sup> *Id.* at 9042.

<sup>61</sup> *Id.* at 9041.

<sup>62</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C).

<sup>63</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A); *see also* 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B) (requiring termination if the Secretary determines “that *a foreign state* . . . no longer continues to meet the conditions for designation under paragraph (1)”) (emphasis added).

<sup>64</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042–43.

gang on a “list of transnational criminal organizations.”<sup>65</sup> In elaborating her finding that extension is not in the national interest, the notice provides:

TPS has allowed a significant population of inadmissible or illegal aliens without a path to lawful immigration status to settle in the interior of the United States[.] . . . Among these Venezuelan nationals who have crossed into the United States are members of the Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua.<sup>66</sup>

79. Despite that the termination notice issued only two days after the vacatur notice (and less than two weeks after Noem took office), the notice proclaims that the decision to terminate the 2023 Venezuela Designation followed “consultation with the appropriate U.S. Government agencies,” a review of “country conditions,” and a “consider[ation of] whether permitting Venezuelan nationals covered by the 2023 designation is contrary to the national interest.”<sup>67</sup>

80. The termination takes effect April 7, 2025 or 60 days after the publication of the termination notice. This is the earliest possible date of termination allowed by law.<sup>68</sup> While the termination notice recognizes the discretionary authority of the DHS Secretary to provide for an “‘orderly transition’ period if she determines it to be appropriate,” it rejects one as improper here.<sup>69</sup> The termination notice justifies this in light of the Secretary’s determination that the termination is compelled in the “national interest,” and her finding that there are limited “putative reliance interests.”<sup>70</sup>

81. The termination notice does *not* extend the employment authorization documents for 2023 Venezuela registrants beyond the date permitted by the original 2023 Designation. Thus, TPS holders protected by the 2023 Venezuela Designation have TPS-related work authorization only until April 2, 2025—five days prior to the expiry of their legal status—even though the

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<sup>65</sup> *Id.* at 9042.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.*

<sup>67</sup> *Id.* at 9040–41.

<sup>68</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(B) (termination may be effective no earlier than 60 days after publication in the Federal Register or, “if later, the expiration of the most recent previous extension”).

<sup>69</sup> *See* 8 U.S.C. 1254a(d)(3) (Secretary may establish an orderly transition period); 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042.

<sup>70</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042–44.



1 statute requires that individuals protected by TPS have “effective” work authorization “throughout  
2 the period [they are] in temporary protected status.”<sup>71</sup>

### 3 Haiti TPS Designations

#### 4 Haiti’s 2010 and 2011 Designations

5 82. Haiti was first designated for TPS on January 21, 2010 when the DHS Secretary  
6 found that “extraordinary and temporary conditions” in Haiti warranted TPS designation for  
7 eighteen months following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that affected three million people, about  
8 one-third of Haiti’s population.<sup>72</sup> Haiti was redesignated for eighteen months the following year,  
9 on May 19, 2011, allowing more recently arrived Haitians to register for TPS.<sup>73</sup>

10 83. TPS for Haiti was extended four times between 2010 and the beginning of the first  
11 Trump administration—in May 2011 (along with the redesignation), October 2012, March 2014,  
12 and August 2015. Each time, DHS determined, after consultation with the State Department, that  
13 it remained unsafe for Haitian TPS holders to return, and extended TPS for Haiti for eighteen  
14 months.<sup>74</sup>

15 84. Under the first Trump Administration, Secretary John Kelly initially extended  
16 Haiti’s TPS designation in May 2017, but did so for the minimum six months allowed by statute.  
17 That decision foreshadowed imminent termination, advising Haitian TPS holders to “prepare for  
18 their return to Haiti.”<sup>75</sup> Six months later, on January 18, 2018, Acting Secretary Elaine Duke  
19 terminated TPS for Haiti on the ground that country conditions in Haiti “no longer support its  
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22 <sup>71</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1254a(a)(2).

23 <sup>72</sup> Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 75 Fed. Reg. 3476-02, 3477 (Jan. 21, 2010).

24 <sup>73</sup> Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 76 Fed. Reg. 29000 (May 19, 2011).

25 <sup>74</sup> *Id.* at 29001; Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 77 Fed.  
26 Reg. 59943, 59944 (Oct. 1, 2012); Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected  
27 Status, 79 Fed. Reg. 11808, 11809 (Mar. 3, 2014); Extension of the Designation of Haiti for  
Temporary Protected Status, 80 Fed. Reg. 51582, 51583 (Aug. 25, 2015).

28 <sup>75</sup> Extension of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 82 Fed. Reg. 23830 (May 24, 2017).



1 designation for TPS.”<sup>76</sup> Acting Secretary Duke provided for an eighteen-month period for the  
 2 termination to enter into effect to “provide time for an orderly transition,” as permitted by  
 3 statute.<sup>77</sup>

4 85. This 2018 termination of TPS for Haiti never entered into effect due to legal  
 5 challenges. On October 3, 2018, in *Ramos v. Nielsen*, this Court preliminarily enjoined the Haiti  
 6 termination and three others, finding that the plaintiffs had shown a likelihood of success on their  
 7 Administrative Procedure Act claim that the Trump Administration’s terminations arose from an  
 8 unexplained change in DHS practice, and serious questions on the merits of their Equal Protection  
 9 claim that the decisions were motivated by racism towards non-white, non-European  
 10 immigrants.<sup>78</sup>

11 86. On April 11, 2019, in *Saget v. Trump*, a federal district judge in the Eastern District  
 12 of New York also enjoined the defendants from implementing the Haiti TPS termination. After a  
 13 week-long hearing, that court similarly concluded that Plaintiffs were likely to prevail on their  
 14 APA claim and had raised serious questions on the merits of their Equal Protection claims. It  
 15 found evidence “suggestive of a pre-determined outcome not anchored in an objective assessment,  
 16 but instead a politically motivated agenda” and of “a discriminatory purpose of removing non-  
 17 white immigrants from the United States.”<sup>79</sup>

18 87. To comply with these preliminary injunctions, DHS automatically extended TPS for  
 19 Haiti six times – from October 31, 2018 through June 30, 2024.<sup>80</sup>

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23 <sup>76</sup> Termination of the Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 83 Fed. Reg. 2648,  
 24 2648 (Jan. 18, 2018).

<sup>77</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>78</sup> *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1097-98, 1108.

26 <sup>79</sup> *Saget v. Trump*, 375 F. Supp. 3d 280, 372, 374 (E.D.N.Y. 2019).

27 <sup>80</sup> Continuation of Documentation for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protected Status Designations  
 28 for Sudan, Nicaragua, Haiti, and El Salvador: 83 Fed. Reg. 54764 (Oct. 31, 2018); 84 Fed. Reg.  
 7103 (Mar. 1, 2019); 84 Fed. Reg. 59403 (Nov. 4, 2019); 85 Fed. Reg. 79208 (Dec. 9, 2020); 86  
 Fed. Reg. 50725 (Sept. 10, 2021); 87 Fed. Reg. 68717 (Nov. 16, 2022).

**Secretary Mayorkas' 2021, 2023, and 2024 Haiti Decisions**

88. On August 3, 2021, in the wake of the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, Secretary Mayorkas newly designated Haiti for TPS for an eighteen-month period on the basis of extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevented Haitian nationals from returning to Haiti in safety.<sup>81</sup> Secretary Mayorkas cited Haiti's "deteriorating political crisis, violence and a staggering increase in human rights abuses" as well as rising food insecurity and malnutrition, waterborne disease epidemics, and "high vulnerability to natural hazards, all of which have been further exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic."<sup>82</sup>

89. On January 26, 2023 Secretary Mayorkas extended Haiti's 2021 designation for eighteen months and also redesignated Haiti for TPS. After a "thorough review" the Secretary concluded that "Haiti is experiencing economic, security, political, and health crises simultaneously," including gang violence, a humanitarian crisis, and political upheaval, and that these extraordinary and temporary conditions continued to prevent Haitian nationals from returning to Haiti in safety.<sup>83</sup> The Secretary also concluded that "redesignation is not contrary to the national interest of the United States."<sup>84</sup>

90. On July 1, 2024, DHS again extended and redesignated Haiti for TPS on the basis of extraordinary and temporary conditions. Secretary Mayorkas found that "Haiti continues to experience simultaneous economic, security, political, and health crises," including the continuing threat of gang violence, the dysfunctional and worsening political situation, and limited access of citizens to healthcare, food, and water.<sup>85</sup> He further found that "it is not contrary to the national

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<sup>81</sup> Designation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 86 Fed. Reg. 41863, 418643 (Aug. 3, 2021).

<sup>82</sup> *Id.* at 41864.

<sup>83</sup> Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 88 Fed. Reg. 5022, 5025 (Jan. 26, 2023).

<sup>84</sup> *Id.*

<sup>85</sup> Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status, 89 Fed. Reg. 54484, 54487 (July 1, 2024).

1 interest of the United States to permit Haitian TPS beneficiaries to remain in the United States  
2 temporarily.”<sup>86</sup>

3 91. The July 2024 Federal Register notice announced that Haiti’s TPS extension and  
4 redesignation “will remain in effect for 18 months, ending on February 3, 2026.”<sup>87</sup>

5 **Secretary Noem’s February 2025 Partial Vacatur of TPS for Haiti**

6 92. On February 20, 2025, DHS issued a press release titled “Secretary Noem Rescinds  
7 Previous Administration’s Extension of Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status.”<sup>88</sup> The release  
8 announced that Secretary Noem had “vacated a decision by the previous administration to extend  
9 Haiti’s [TPS] by 18 months” as “part of President Trump’s promise to rescind policies that were  
10 magnets for illegal immigration and inconsistent with the law.”<sup>89</sup> The release asserted that “[f]or  
11 decades the TPS system has been exploited and abused” and claimed that “Biden and Mayorkas  
12 attempted to tie the hands of the Trump administration by extending Haiti’s Temporary Protected  
13 Status by 18 months.”<sup>90</sup> The release makes this assertion despite that the 2024 Haiti redesignation  
14 and extension notice was from July, well before the election of Donald Trump as president.

15 93. Later that same day, DHS “pre-published” a Federal Register notice entitled “Partial  
16 Vacatur of 2024 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Haiti.”<sup>91</sup> In the notice, Secretary Noem  
17 explains that she had “reconsider[ed]” the July 2024 Haitian Redesignation and Extension in light  
18 of the directive in President Trump’s Executive Order 14159, *Protecting the American People*  
19 *Against Invasion*, “to ensure that the TPS designations are consistent with the TPS statute and  
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23 <sup>86</sup> *Id.* at 54491.

24 <sup>87</sup> *Id.* at 54485.

25 <sup>88</sup> Press Release, DHS, Secretary Noem Rescinds Previous Administration's Extension of Haiti's  
26 TPS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/20/secretary-noem-rescinds-extension-haitis-temporary-protected-status>.

27 <sup>89</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>90</sup> *Id.*

<sup>91</sup> Partial Vacatur of 2024 Temporary Protected Status Decision for Haiti, 90 Fed. Reg. 10511-01  
(Feb. 24, 2025).

1 ‘are appropriately limited in scope and made for only so long as may be necessary to fulfill the  
2 textual requirements of that statute.’”<sup>92</sup>

3 94. Secretary Noem further announced that she was “partially vacating the June 4,  
4 2024,<sup>93</sup> decision to reduce the designation and extension period from eighteen months to twelve  
5 months and to make a corresponding change to the initial registration period for new applicants  
6 under the 2024 designation,” cutting that registration period short by six months.<sup>94</sup>

7 95. Under the partial vacatur, Haiti’s TPS designation is set to end on August 3, 2025,  
8 unless extended. The Federal Register notice instructs:

9 [e]mployers, and Federal, State and local government agencies (such  
10 as Departments of Motor Vehicles) that previously accepted or are  
11 presented with an EAD with the TPS category code of A-12 or C-19  
12 that expires on February 3, 2026 must update their records to note that  
the validity date of the document is through August 3, 2025.<sup>95</sup>

13 96. As justification for the partial vacatur, the Federal Register notice stated that the  
14 2024 extension was invalid because it did not specify why an eighteen-month period was selected  
15 for extension, as opposed to a six- or twelve-month period, and asserted that the congressionally  
16 authorized “default extension period” is six months.<sup>96</sup> The notice also asserted that Secretary  
17 Mayorkas did not provide enough detail as to why TPS for Haitians was not “contrary to the  
18 national interest,” particularly as applied to “those who entered the country unlawfully.”<sup>97</sup>  
19 Additionally, Secretary Noem said that the 2024 Extension cited statistics from 2022-2023, in  
20 addition to earlier years, suggesting that these were outdated statistics, albeit acknowledging that

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22 <sup>92</sup> *Id.* at 10513.

23 <sup>93</sup> Secretary Noem refers to the July 1, 2024 Haiti Extension and Redesignation as the “June 4,  
24 2024 decision” throughout the Federal Register notice, although the decision was published on  
25 July 1, 2024 and was apparently first announced on June 28, 2024. *See* Press Release, DHS,  
Secretary Mayorkas Announces Extension and Redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected  
Status (June 28, 2024), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2024/06/28/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-redesignation-haiti-temporary-protected>.

26 <sup>94</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 10514.

27 <sup>95</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>96</sup> *Id.* at 10513–14.

<sup>97</sup> *Id.* at 10513.

1 the July 2024 notice “cites some country conditions reports that are relatively proximate to the []  
2 decision.”<sup>98</sup>

3 97. DHS estimates that 521,000 Haitian nationals rely on TPS for legal status and work  
4 authorization.<sup>99</sup> The Secretary described this unprecedented action to eliminate six months of legal  
5 status and work authorization for over 500,000 people as “modest.”<sup>100</sup> She considered that her  
6 actions adequately contemplated any “putative reliance interests” in the July 2024 decision  
7 because Haitians have been able to register for the extension for seven months; and because she  
8 made the decision to only partially vacate the extension rather than vacate it in its entirety.<sup>101</sup>

9 98. Secretary Noem stated that DHS will not recall existing TPS-related documentation,  
10 including work permits with a February 3, 2026 end date (which many Haitian TPS holders have),  
11 but stated that these documents will only remain valid through August 3, 2025, contrary to the  
12 express language on the documents.<sup>102</sup> *Id.*

13 99. Secretary Noem’s justifications for the partial vacatur of TPS for Haiti have no  
14 support in either the historical record of TPS determinations or statutory language. First, the TPS  
15 statute authorizes Secretaries to designate or extend TPS for six-, twelve-, or eighteen-month  
16 durations, but does not create any separate requirement that a Secretary must explain the reason to  
17 choose a particular duration (beyond her implicit judgment as to how long conditions are likely to  
18 remain unsafe).<sup>103</sup> Over the 35-year history of the statute, in virtually all cases in which  
19 Secretaries designated or extended TPS for a country, they announced the length of the  
20 designation without elaborating their reasons for choosing *that* duration and not another. Indeed,  
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22  
23 <sup>98</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>99</sup> *Trump Administration Cuts Duration of Deportation Protections for 521,000 Haitians*,  
25 REUTERS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/trump-administration-cuts-duration-haitian-deportation-protections-august-2025-02-20/>.

26 <sup>100</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 10514.

27 <sup>101</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>102</sup> *Id.*

<sup>103</sup> See 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(2), (b)(3)(C) (initial designation or extension for period of 6, 12 or eighteen months, at the “discretion of the [Secretary]”).

Secretary Noem’s partial vacatur is itself consistent with that practice; it does not explain why it chose a twelve-month period.

100. In the context of Haiti, no Secretary has ever explained in the Federal Register why they chose a particular duration rather than an alternative. Even when Secretary Kelly announced the atypical six-month extension of TPS in 2017, he did not elaborate on his reasoning for choosing that duration, or explain why a longer duration was not appropriate.<sup>104</sup>

101. Contrary to Secretary Noem’s statement in the Federal Register, there is no default period for an affirmative decision to extend a TPS designation; the six-month default applies only if the Secretary fails to make any determination. Of the more than 200 TPS extensions that have occurred since 1990, TPS has been extended for a six-month period on only a handful of occasions—for instance, in Secretary Kelly’s atypical six-month extension of TPS for Haiti, a few times when an automatic extension was granted due to the failure of a Secretary to make a timely determination, and in a few other instances, such as during the short-lived Ebola crisis.<sup>105</sup>

102. Second, while Section 1254a(b)(1)(C) prohibits the Secretary from designating a country for TPS if she finds that doing so “is contrary to the national interest of the United States,”<sup>106</sup> the statute does *not* require that a Secretary elaborate the reasons why a designation is *not* contrary to the national interest. Further, national interest is relevant only to whether a country should be designated for TPS initially, not whether an existing designation should be extended.<sup>107</sup>

103. The historical practice is consistent with the statute’s mandate: when explaining designations pursuant to Section 1254a(b)(1)(C), Secretaries typically assert that the designation is “not contrary to the national interest,” but do not elaborate further. And Secretary Noem’s February 1, 2025 termination of TPS for Venezuela is the only instance in the 35-year history of

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<sup>104</sup> See 82 Fed. Reg. at 23830-01.

<sup>105</sup> See *id.* (Secretary Kelly’s 2017 six-month extension of TPS for Haiti prior to termination); 65 Fed. Reg. 52789-02, 65 Fed. Reg. 15016, and 82 Fed. Reg. 59630-02 (automatic six-month extensions of TPS for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea Bissau & Honduras due to the failure to make a timely determination); 61 Fed. Reg. 29428 and 61 Fed. Reg. 58425, (six-month extensions of TPS for Rwanda); 81 Fed. Reg. 15339, 81 Fed. Reg. 15328, 81 Fed. Reg. 15334 (six-month extensions of TPS for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone in context of Ebola crisis).

<sup>106</sup> 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b)(1)(C).

<sup>107</sup> See ¶ 76, *supra*.

1 TPS in which a Secretary has terminated a TPS designation due to a finding that the designation  
2 was *no longer* in the national interest.

3 104. Lastly, Secretary Noem’s stated concern that the July 2024 notice considered  
4 outdated statistics is supported by neither the statute nor historical practice—the statute does not  
5 limit what kinds of evidence may be considered, and Secretaries have traditionally considered  
6 facts both close in time to and further from the determination, as the July 2024 notice also does.

7 **THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO END TPS**

8 **PROTECTIONS AND DESTROY THE TPS PROGRAM**

9 **Secretary Noem, President Trump, and Vice President Vance Promised to Terminate TPS**

10 105. Secretary Noem, President Trump and Vice President Vance have repeatedly  
11 characterized TPS itself as illegal, and committed to terminate TPS long before the Secretary had  
12 any opportunity to consider the factors required by the statute. Secretary Noem’s Venezuela and  
13 Haiti decisions treat the program itself, and those protected by it, as illegal.

14 106. DHS never acknowledged or explained the departure from the agency’s prior  
15 recognition that Congress lawfully authorized TPS designations, that TPS is itself legal, and that  
16 individual TPS designations may be in the national interest.

17 107. Both prior to and since assuming her position running DHS, Secretary Noem has  
18 reiterated her view that TPS, as it has been used, is illegal. At her confirmation hearing, Secretary  
19 Noem stated that “[TPS] has been abused and manipulated by the Biden Administration and that  
20 will no longer be allowed . . . and these extensions going forward the way that they are, the  
21 program was intended to be temporary[.]”<sup>108</sup>

22 108. Secretary Noem defined TPS holders as law violators just by virtue of having this  
23 humanitarian status. In announcing her decision to end TPS for Venezuela, Secretary Noem said  
24 the termination “stopped” former Secretary Mayorkas from letting Venezuelan TPS holders “stay  
25 here and violate our laws for another 18 months.”<sup>109</sup>

26  
27 <sup>108</sup> Dkt. 37-12 at 104.

28 <sup>109</sup> Dkt. 37-14 at 2–3.



1           109. In a February 2, 2025 “Meet the Press” appearance the day the Venezuela vacatur  
2 was published, Secretary Noem said, “[T]he TPP *[sic]* program has been abused, and it doesn’t  
3 have integrity right now.”<sup>110</sup>

4           110. In her February 20, 2025 press statement announcing the partial vacatur of TPS for  
5 Haiti, Secretary Noem elaborated, with emphasis, that “TPS is a type of immigration status  
6 available to nationals of certain designated countries that allows aliens, **even if they entered the**  
7 **country illegally**, the ability to reside **temporarily** in the U.S.”<sup>111</sup> The press statement reiterated  
8 what Secretary Noem asserted at her confirmation hearing—her belief that “[f]or decades the TPS  
9 system has been exploited and abused.” DHS used as an “example” of the “exploit[ation]” of the  
10 system that “Haiti has been designated for TPS since 2010”; and that “more Haitian nationals,  
11 even those who entered the U.S. illegally” have benefited from “each extension.” (Here, she  
12 presumably meant each “redesignation,” because an extension does not allow additional Haitian  
13 nationals to benefit). DHS also stated that, by partially vacating the lawfully granted extension, it  
14 was “returning integrity to the TPS system,” and “returning TPS to its original status: temporary.”  
15 The press statement also referenced the rescission of the previous administration’s extension of  
16 TPS for Venezuela, apparently linking these two vacatures to the same goal.

17           111. President Trump, Vice President Vance, and Trump surrogates have likewise  
18 championed the view that TPS designations are “illegal”—or, in the Vice President’s words, a  
19 “magic government wand.”<sup>112</sup> They have made clear their intent to target TPS and/or TPS  
20 designations for termination.

21           112. President Trump, while campaigning, said that he would personally revoke TPS and  
22 that he did not consider it legal. President Trump responded to an interviewer’s question as to  
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24 <sup>110</sup> Dkt. 37-15 at 18.

25 <sup>111</sup> Press Release, *Secretary Noem Rescinds Previous Administration's Extension of Haiti's TPS*,  
DHS (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2025/02/20/secretary-noem-rescinds-extension-haitis-temporary-protected-status> (emphasis in original).

26 <sup>112</sup> See Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct.  
27 22, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html>;  
28 Miriam Jordan & Hamed Aleaziz, *Trump Immigration Targets: Ukrainians, Venezuelans, Haitians*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/15/us/trump-immigrants-temporary-protected-status.html>.



1 whether Haitian TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were “legal or illegal” and whether he would  
 2 “revoke TPS status” by saying: “You have to remove the people; you cannot destroy our country  
 3 . . . In my opinion, it’s not legal. . . . Absolutely I would revoke [TPS].”<sup>113</sup>

4 113. Though TPS holders in Springfield, Ohio were welcomed by local officials and  
 5 employers, and legally authorized to live and work in the United States through the TPS program,  
 6 President Trump decried TPS as a “little trick,” asserting Haitian migrants “are illegal immigrants  
 7 as far as I’m concerned. They’re destroying the towns. . . . [T]hey’ll end up destroying the  
 8 state!”<sup>114</sup> He asserted he would “do large deportations in Springfield, Ohio,” despite having  
 9 acknowledged that the Haitians in Springfield about which he was speaking were TPS holders.<sup>115</sup>

10 114. Vice President Vance, during the campaign, expressed a goal of ending TPS: “We’re  
 11 going to stop doing mass grants of Temporary Protected Status. Of course, you’re going to have  
 12 people fleeing from tyranny, but that happens on a case-by-case basis, not by waving the magic  
 13 government wand.”<sup>116</sup> Given that TPS is, by statute, designed to *be* a mass grant for all eligible  
 14 individuals (unlike asylum and other forms of fear-based immigration relief), this statement can  
 15 only be understood as an attack on TPS itself.

16 115. Vice President Vance expressed this view repeatedly. In a September 2024 CNN  
 17 interview, he disputed the anchor’s characterization of TPS holders as being in the United States  
 18 legally. The future vice president called TPS designations a “magic amnesty wand . . . giving  
 19

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20 <sup>113</sup> Damita Menezes & Ali Bradley, *Trump on Springfield Haitian Migrants: ‘They Have to Be*  
 21 *Removed,’* NEWSNATION (Oct. 2, 2024) at approx. 12:00,  
 22 [https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/)  
 23 [removed/](https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/); Maggie Astor, *Trump Says He Would Try Again to Revoke Haitian Immigrants’*  
 24 *Protections*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 3, 2024), [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html)  
 25 [haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/03/us/politics/trump-haitian-immigrants-legal-status.html).

26 <sup>114</sup> Edith Olmstead, *Trump Is Now Threatening All Immigrants, “Illegal” or Not*, THE NEW  
 27 REPUBLIC (Oct. 9, 2024), [https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie)  
 28 [springfield-ohio-lie](https://newrepublic.com/post/186961/donald-trump-racist-attacks-springfield-ohio-lie) (“[L]ook at Springfield, where 30,000 illegal immigrants are dropped, and it  
 was, they may have done it through a certain little trick, but they are illegal immigrants as far as  
 I’m concerned.”).

<sup>115</sup> Alexandra Ulmer *et al.*, *Trump Pledges to Deport Haitians in Ohio City if Elected*, REUTERS  
 (Sept. 14, 2024), [https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-says-attacks-haitian-immigrants-have-](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-says-attacks-haitian-immigrants-have-stop-2024-09-13/)  
[stop-2024-09-13/](https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-says-attacks-haitian-immigrants-have-stop-2024-09-13/).

<sup>116</sup> Chris Cameron, *Vance Vows an End to Programs for Legal Immigrants*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 22,  
 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/22/us/politics/vance-trump-legal-immigrants.html>.

1 [migrants] legal status. . . . That is not to say they are here legally. That is a terrible indictment of  
 2 [Vice President Kamala Harris’s] amnesty policies.” The anchor responded that Mr. Vance “might  
 3 not agree with the [TPS] policy,” but “it is the law.” Mr. Vance replied that Vice President Harris  
 4 “granted amnesty at a mass level.”<sup>117</sup>

5 116. At a campaign rally a couple of days later, Mr. Vance doubled down, assailing what  
 6 he called a “media and Kamala Harris fact check” about Haitian TPS holders. He stated:

7 The media loves to say that the Haitian migrants, hundreds of  
 8 thousands of them, by the way . . . they are here legally. And what they  
 9 mean is that Kamala Harris used two separate programs, mass parole  
 10 and temporary protective status. She used two programs to wave a  
 11 wand and to say we’re not going to deport those people here. Well, if  
 12 Kamala Harris waves the wand illegally and says these people are now  
 13 here legally, I’m still going to call them an illegal alien. An illegal  
 14 action from Kamala Harris does not make an alien legal.<sup>118</sup>

15 117. According to the New York Times, Stephen Miller, President Trump’s Deputy Chief  
 16 of Staff and chief architect of his immigration policy platform, and other top advisers flagged the  
 17 revocation of TPS as a priority for the incoming administration, again without consideration of  
 18 country conditions or the merit of any individual designation.<sup>119</sup>

19 118. Project 2025, “the 2025 Presidential Transition Project,” a product of current and  
 20 former Trump political appointees, also called for the “[r]epeal [of] TPS designations”—without  
 21 elaboration as to any consideration of country conditions or any other review criteria or  
 22 processes.<sup>120</sup>

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23 <sup>117</sup> Interview of Senator J.D. Vance, CNN (Sept. 16, 2024) at approx. 5:00,  
 24 <http://youtube.com/watch?v=djpTr5r0zMQ>.

25 <sup>118</sup> Speech by Senator J.D. Vance at Raleigh, North Carolina Campaign Event, C-Span (Sept. 18,  
 26 2024) at approx. 41:00, [https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012)  
 27 [campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012](https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/senator-jd-vance-campaigns-in-raleigh-north-carolina/649012).

28 <sup>119</sup> Charlie Savage *et al.*, *Sweeping Raids, Giant Camps and Mass Deportations: Inside Trump’s*  
*2025 Immigration Plans*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 11, 2023),  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/11/us/politics/trump-2025-immigration-agenda.html> (“People  
 who were granted temporary protected status because they are from certain countries deemed  
 unsafe, allowing them to lawfully live and work in the United States, would have that status  
 revoked.”).

<sup>120</sup> Paul Dans & Steven Groves, eds., “Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise,” at  
 150, [https://static.project2025.org/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULL.pdf](https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf).

119. President Trump’s motivation to terminate TPS is not new. During the first Trump Administration, DHS Secretaries faced unrelenting pressure from the White House to reach its “desired result of terminating TPS” and responded by ordering pre-textual terminations of TPS designations for nearly everyone who held the status. Those termination decisions were ultimately struck down in litigation.<sup>121</sup>

120. Secretary Noem’s actions follow this familiar pattern, and show that she was motivated in part in response to a clear mandate from President Trump and other Trump administration immigration officials. This is evident by her reliance on President Trump’s policy objections to support both her determination that extending TPS for Venezuela was not in the national interest and her partial vacatur of the Haiti designation and extension.

**SECRETARY NOEM AND PRESIDENT TRUMP EXPRESSED DISCRIMINATORY  
ANIMUS TOWARDS VENEZUELAN AND HAITIAN TPS HOLDERS**

121. Secretary Noem’s vacatur and termination decisions were motivated in significant part by animus against Venezuelans and Haitians based on their perceived race, ethnicity, and national origin. The animus is evidenced by numerous statements made by Secretary Noem, President Trump and other Trump administration officials. A limited number of those statements are described herein. They leave no doubt as to the speaker’s discriminatory motives against non-white immigrants in general and Venezuelans and Haitians in particular.

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<sup>121</sup> *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1081 (granting preliminary injunction enjoining implementation of TPS terminations for Sudan, Haiti, El Salvador, and Nicaragua); *see also Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 379 (finding Plaintiffs likely to succeed on claims that 2018 termination of Haiti’s TPS designation violated the APA and the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause and issuing preliminary injunction); *Centro Presente v. DHS*, 332 F. Supp. 3d 393, 416 (D. Mass. 2018) (denying motion to dismiss and explaining “there is no justification, explicit or otherwise, for Defendants’ switch to focusing on whether the conditions that caused the initial designation had abated rather than a fuller evaluation of whether the country would be able to safely accept returnees”); *CASA de Md., Inc. v. Trump*, 355 F. Supp. 3d 307, 312–13, 329 (D. Md. 2018) (denying motion to dismiss because plaintiffs plausibly alleged equal protection and APA challenge).

## Secretary Noem's Racist Statements

122. In announcing the vacatur of the Venezuela TPS extension in a “Fox and Friends” interview on January 29, 2025, Secretary Noem described Venezuelans in the United States as “dirt bags”: “Today we signed an executive order within the Department of Homeland Security in a direction that we were not going to follow through on what he [former Secretary Mayorkas] did to tie our hands, that we are going to follow the process, evaluate all of these individuals that are in our country, including the Venezuelans that are here and members of TdA. Listen, . . . the people of this country want *these dirt bags* out. They want their communities to be safe. . . . So, this is part of our plan to make sure that we’re protecting America, keeping it safe again, just like President Trump promised.”<sup>122</sup>

123. This was not an isolated occurrence. Secretary Noem has repeatedly described immigrants, and particularly those from Venezuela, as “dirt bags.”<sup>123</sup>

124. The vast majority of Venezuelan TPS holders have no criminal history, and in general people are ineligible for TPS if they have more than a single misdemeanor conviction. Nonetheless, Secretary Noem has also sought to disparage Venezuelan TPS holders as “criminals.” At her confirmation hearing, Secretary Noem said: “[T]his extension [of TPS] of over 600,000 Venezuelans [] is alarming when you look at what we’ve seen in different states, including Colorado with gangs doing damage and harming the individuals and the people that live there.”<sup>124</sup>

125. She has also repeatedly conflated Venezuelan TPS holders with members of a Venezuelan gang which the Trump administration designated as a foreign terrorist organization.

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<sup>122</sup> Dkt. 37-14 at 3 (emphasis added).

<sup>123</sup> @Sec\_Noem, X (Jan. 28, 2025, 7:35 AM), [https://x.com/Sec\\_Noem/status/1884264039158800547](https://x.com/Sec_Noem/status/1884264039158800547) (“Getting the dirt bags off the streets.”); *DHS Secretary Kristi Noem Joins Federal Agents on Immigration Raids in New York*, CBS MORNINGS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tODarHnNiNs> (“These guys are dirtbags. They have come in and perpetuated violence in this country.”). The CBS reporter who accompanied Secretary Noem on New York City raids she references reported that nearly half of those arrested had no criminal history.

<sup>124</sup> Dkt. 37-12 at 104–05.

1 On the January 29 “Fox and Friends” interview, Secretary Noem described ending TPS for  
 2 Venezuelans as necessary in order to “evaluate all of these individuals that are in our country,  
 3 including the Venezuelans that are here and members of TdA,” referring to Tren de Aragua.<sup>125</sup>

4 126. Secretary Noem also conflated TPS holders and Tren de Aragua gang members in  
 5 the Venezuela termination notice itself. For instance, she asserted that “TPS has allowed a  
 6 significant population of inadmissible or illegal aliens without a path to lawful immigration status  
 7 to settle in the interior of the United States,” and that “[a]mong these Venezuelan nationals . . . are  
 8 members of the Venezuelan gang known as Tren de Aragua.”<sup>126</sup> The notice makes no assertion  
 9 that any TPS holders are TdA members; and DHS has provided no evidence of that on any  
 10 occasion. The notice does not even make any assertion that there is a large number of TdA  
 11 members in the United States; and DHS has never asserted that either.

12 127. On February 2, 2025, the publication date of the Federal Register notice announcing  
 13 the vacatur, Secretary Noem appeared on NBC News’ “Meet the Press” and said:

14 [F]olks from Venezuela that have come into this country are members  
 15 of TdA. And remember, Venezuela purposely emptied out their  
 16 prisons, emptied out their mental health facilities and sent them to the  
 17 United States of America. So we are ending that extension of that  
 18 program, adding some integrity back into it. And this administration’s  
 evaluating all of our programs to make sure they truly are something  
 that’s to the benefit of the United States, so that they’re not to the  
 benefit of criminals.<sup>127</sup>

19 128. Secretary Noem’s baseless assertion that Venezuela emptied out prisons and mental  
 20 institutions to send people to the United States long predates her term as Secretary. She has made  
 21 this false claim repeatedly.<sup>128</sup> One year before she was named DHS Secretary, Noem already

22  
 23 <sup>125</sup> *DHS Sec. Noem Announces End to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelan Migrants*, FOX  
 AND FRIENDS (Jan. 29, 2025) at approx. 1:10,  
 24 [https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msockid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad68603](https://www.foxnews.com/video/6367942790112?msockid=30416397acd261bf24f1707bad686037)  
 25 7.

26 <sup>126</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042.

27 <sup>127</sup> Dkt. 37-15 at 18–19.

28 <sup>128</sup> @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 26, 2024, 11:19 AM),  
<https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762195636491825295> (“Nations like Venezuela are emptying

1 targeted Venezuelans for deportation, saying “Venezuela didn’t send us their best. They emptied  
2 their prisons and sent criminals to America. Deportations need to start on DAY ONE of [President  
3 Trump’s] term” in office.<sup>129</sup>

4 129. In a CBS News interview on March 5, 2024, Secretary Noem asserted that the  
5 “invasion” by Venezuelan (and Cuban) immigrants constituted an existential threat to the country.  
6 “We’ve seen these countries that hate us empty out their prisons, their mental institutions. They’ve  
7 given us their responsibilities and some of the most dangerous people in the world have made their  
8 way to the United States of America. . . . [C]ountries such as Venezuela and Cuba have been  
9 emptying out their prisons. . . . So we know for a fact that this was facilitated, that the White  
10 House has this invasion happening on purpose, and it is to remake the foundation of this  
11 country.”<sup>130</sup>

12 130. Secretary Noem’s assertions are not just unsubstantiated; they are false. Tren de  
13 Aragua’s “reputation” is overblown, and not matched by “its actual presence in the United  
14 States.”<sup>131</sup> “[N]early no claims made by U.S. law enforcement about crimes committed by  
15  
16

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17 their prisons of dangerous criminals to send them to America. They are happy to let America’s  
18 open border be the solution to their problem.”); @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM),  
19 <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828> (Venezuela didn’t send us their best.  
20 They emptied their prisons and sent criminals to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram (Mar. 6,  
21 2024), <https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/C4ML17eRBYr/> (“Countries like Venezuela  
22 are emptying their prisons, their mental institutions, and sending them to America. The White  
23 House is facilitating this invasion. They’re doing it on purpose.”); @KristiNoem, X (Mar. 14,  
24 2024, 9:24 AM), <https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1768312288560247199> (“At least 300,000  
25 illegal immigrants from Venezuela have been encountered at the border. Remember, Venezuela  
26 emptied their prisons and told them to come to America.”); @KristiNoem, Instagram (Dec. 9,  
27 2024), <https://www.instagram.com/kristinoem/reel/DDVjJnURRqw/> (“[N]ations like Venezuela  
28 are using our open border to solve their own crime and mental health crises.”).

<sup>129</sup> @KristiNoem, X (Feb. 27, 2024, 5:26 PM),  
<https://x.com/KristiNoem/status/1762650522920652828>.

<sup>130</sup> *South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem Calls on Nikki Haley to Exit 2024 Race*, CBS NEWS (Mar. 5,  
2024) at approx. 3:58, <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/kristi-noem-calls-on-nikki-haley-to-exit-2024-race/>.

<sup>131</sup> Venezuela Investigative Unit, *What We Know About Tren de Aragua’s US Presence*, INSIGHT  
CRIME (Oct. 4, 2024), <https://insightcrime.org/news/what-we-know-about-tren-de-araguas-us-presence/>.



1 purported members of TdA have been substantiated by hard evidence that directly connects the  
2 accused with the organization in Venezuela.”<sup>132</sup>

3 131. When investigative journalists sought to study claims about the gang’s activity last  
4 year, “none of the [numerous] national, state, and local law enforcement agencies contacted in the  
5 U.S. reported any significant presence of Tren de Aragua” in their jurisdictions.<sup>133</sup> A 2024 review  
6 of state and federal legal databases found zero “U.S. criminal cases mentioning Tren de  
7 Aragua.”<sup>134</sup> The Republican mayor and a Republican City Council member of the Colorado town  
8 that President Trump and Secretary Noem claimed had been ravaged by the gang each thoroughly  
9 refuted that assertion, with the mayor instead identifying a delinquent property manager as the  
10 primary culprit for dilapidated properties, not widespread gang activity.<sup>135</sup> And a *Washington Post*  
11 investigation laid bare the fallacy of DHS’s claim that it had transferred to Guantanamo Tren de  
12 Aragua members it described as the “worst of the worst.” *The Washington Post* found no evidence  
13 that those transferred were even Tren de Aragua members, and experts have consistently rejected  
14 the assertion that there were more than a few hundred TdA members in the United States at all.<sup>136</sup>

15 132. DHS itself identified only 600 Venezuelan migrants “who may have connections” to  
16 Tren de Aragua—including not just members, but also victims, witnesses, or subjects of

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18 <sup>132</sup> Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in*  
19 *the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), [https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/)  
20 [of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/) (“[I]t’s unlikely the group has much power or reach in the  
21 U.S., where other organized criminal organizations pose much more of a threat to citizens and  
22 TdA itself.”).

23 <sup>133</sup> Venezuela Investigative Unit, *Is Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua ‘Invading’ the US?*, INSIGHT  
24 CRIME (Apr. 1, 2024), <https://insightcrime.org/news/is-venezuelas-tren-de-aragua-invading-us/>  
25 (“Police agencies in major urban areas across the United States – including Los Angeles, Phoenix,  
26 Dallas, San Antonio, and Denver – told InSight Crime that they had no reports of crimes  
27 committed by Tren de Aragua in their jurisdictions.”).

28 <sup>134</sup> *Id.*

<sup>135</sup> Jonathan Weisman, *How the False Story of a Gang ‘Takeover’ in Colorado Reached Trump*,  
N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 15, 2024), [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html)  
[colorado-immigration.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html).

<sup>136</sup> Silvia Foster-Frau *et al.*, *Relatives and Records Cast Doubt on Guantánamo Migrants Being*  
27 *‘Worst of the Worst’*, WASH. POST (Feb. 16, 2025),  
28 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-deportations-venezuela/)  
[deportations-venezuela/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/16/trump-guantanamo-migrants-deportations-venezuela/).

1 interest.<sup>137</sup> After transferring approximately 200 Venezuelans to El Salvador without due process,  
 2 based on an assertion that most were members of TdA, a DHS Acting Field Office Director  
 3 provided in sworn declarations that: 1) most of those transferred had no criminal records; and 2)  
 4 there were only 258 alleged TdA members in U.S. custody at all—most of whom were not  
 5 detained at all but in removal proceedings on the non-detained docket.<sup>138</sup> Lawyers and family  
 6 members contested the allegations that even these targeted individuals subject to removal to a  
 7 third country on untested gang allegations alone had any association with TdA at all.<sup>139</sup>

8 133. The claim that Venezuelan prisons and mental health facilities are being emptied out  
 9 to send their residents to the United States is also false. “There is no evidence that the Venezuelan  
 10 government is systemically or selectively releasing prisoners and expelling them from the  
 11 country.”<sup>140</sup> Nor has President Trump provided any substantiation for this repeated assertion.<sup>141</sup>  
 12 Experts contend that there simply *aren’t* psychiatric hospitals filled with mentally ill people in  
 13 Venezuela to be released.<sup>142</sup>

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 15 <sup>137</sup> Julia Ainsley, *DHS Is Seeking More than 600 Migrants for Possible Ties to Venezuelan Gang*,  
 16 NBC NEWS (Oct. 23, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/dhs-identified-600-migrants-possible-ties-venezuelan-gang-rcna176020>.

17 <sup>138</sup> Declaration of Robert L. Cerna, Mar. 17, 2025, ¶ 9 (“many of the TdA members removed  
 18 under the [Alien Enemies Act] do not have criminal records in the United States”), Dkt. 26-1,  
 19 Case No. 25-cv-766 (D.D.C.); Declaration of Robert L. Cerna, Mar. 18, 2025, ¶ 6 (identifying 54  
 20 purported TdA “members” detained by ICE, 172 purported “members” in removal proceedings on  
 21 the non-detained docket, and approximately 32 in criminal custody), Dkt. 28-1, Case No. 25-cv-  
 22 766 (D.D.C.).

23 <sup>139</sup> See, e.g., Jazmine Ulloa & Zolan Kanno-Youngs, *Trump Officials Say Deportees Were Gang*  
 24 *Members. Few Details Were Disclosed*, Mar. 18, 2025, N.Y. TIMES,  
 25 <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/18/us/trump-deportations-venezuela-gang.html>.

26 <sup>140</sup> Jorge Valencia, *Trump Says Venezuela Sends Criminals to the U.S. Here’s What to Know*, N.Y.  
 27 TIMES (July 31, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/31/world/americas/trump-crime-venezuela-us.html> (describing the lack of any evidence for the assertion that Venezuela is  
 28 emptying prisons and expelling prisoners to the United States, and considering it “highly unlikely”).

<sup>141</sup> Daniel Dale, *Fact Check: Trump’s Own Campaign Can’t Find Proof for His ‘Mental Institutions’ Immigration Story*, CNN (Apr. 29, 2023),  
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/29/politics/fact-check-trump-mental-institutions-migrants-doctor/index.html>.

<sup>142</sup> Maria Ramirez Uribe & Amy Sherman, *Trump’s Ridiculous Claim that ‘Millions’ of Immigrants Came Illegally from Jails, Mental Facilities*, POLITIFACT (June 6, 2024),  
<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/jun/06/donald-trump/fact-check-trumps-ridiculous->



**President Trump's Racist Statements**

134. From his candidacy for his first term as president through the present, President Trump has repeatedly denigrated people perceived to be non-white immigrants. He has specifically targeted both TPS holders generally and Venezuelans and Haitians.

135. Secretary Noem's reliance on President Trump's objectives in justifying her vacatur and termination decisions demonstrated her adoption of President Trump's animus as well as her response to pressure from President Trump and the White House to reach a quick decision to end TPS protections. Indeed, when publicizing the Venezuela TPS vacatur in a January 29, 2025 interview, Secretary Noem explained that the vacatur reflected President Trump's "desire" to make sure TPS was "used properly," adding that "when the President gives a directive, the Department of Homeland Security will follow it."<sup>143</sup> The February 5, 2025 termination notice for Venezuela and the February 24, 2025 partial vacatur notice for Haiti both explicitly cite President Trump's immigration policy agenda as justifications.<sup>144</sup>

136. During his prior administration, President Trump repeatedly denigrated immigrants from countries designated for TPS, including Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras. Most infamously, he referred to countries designated for TPS as "shithole" countries in a conversation with legislators about TPS, saying "Why do we need more Haitians?" He asked officials to "take them out" of the immigration proposal. He expressed a preference, instead, for immigrants from countries "such as Norway."<sup>145</sup>

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claim-that-millions-o/ (quoting an immigrant behavioral health expert to conclude that President Trump's assertion that Venezuela was emptying mental health facilities and sending residents to the United States "does not make sense because those numbers are not there").

<sup>143</sup> @Sec\_Noem, X (Jan. 29, 2025), [https://x.com/sec\\_noem/status/1884752724194963594?s=46&t=DFMGDqrcqeJ4X9klKmN2s](https://x.com/sec_noem/status/1884752724194963594?s=46&t=DFMGDqrcqeJ4X9klKmN2s) (statement appears in posted video clip from CNN interview).

<sup>144</sup> 90 Fed. Reg. at 9042; 90 Fed. Reg. at 10513.

<sup>145</sup> Josh Dawsey, *Trump Derides Protections for Immigrants from 'Shithole' Countries*, WASH. POST (Jan. 12, 2018), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-attacks-protections-for-immigrants-from-shithole-countries-in-oval-office-meeting/2018/01/11/bfc0725c-f711-11e7-91af-31ac729add94\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.06cbc70bfaec](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-attacks-protections-for-immigrants-from-shithole-countries-in-oval-office-meeting/2018/01/11/bfc0725c-f711-11e7-91af-31ac729add94_story.html?utm_term=.06cbc70bfaec).

137. During his recent campaign, President Trump defended these remarks, reiterating comparisons between “nice countries, you know like Denmark, Switzerland” and “Norway,” and “unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster,” when speaking about immigrants.<sup>146</sup>

138. President Trump has sought to dehumanize immigrants, including TPS holders in particular, through other statements. For months, he repeated and amplified the false claim that Haitian TPS holders were “eating the dogs” and “eating the cats,” “eating the pets of the people that live” in Springfield, Ohio.<sup>147</sup> President Trump called Haitians in Springfield with lawful TPS status “illegal migrant[s]” who “descended upon a town of 58,000 people, destroying their way of life.”<sup>148</sup> Shortly after these statements, there were several bomb threats against hospitals, government buildings, and schools in Springfield.<sup>149</sup>

139. President Trump has also repeatedly, and falsely, claimed that Haitians “all have AIDS.”<sup>150</sup> In 2021, he stated that Haiti had a “tremendous problem with AIDS” and that “[m]any

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<sup>146</sup> Maggie Haberman & Michael Gold, *Trump, at Fund-Raiser, Says He Wants Immigrants from ‘Nice’ Countries*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 7, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/07/us/politics/trump-immigrants-nice-countries.html> (“These are people coming in from prisons and jails. They’re coming in from just unbelievable places and countries, countries that are a disaster.”).

<sup>147</sup> See, e.g., Dkt. 37-8 at 29.

<sup>148</sup> Sam Levine, *‘They’ve Destroyed the Place’: Trump Repeats Racist, Anti-immigrant Lies*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/13/trump-repeats-lies-haitian-immigrants>; see also Damita Menezes & Ali Bradley, *Trump on Springfield Haitian Migrants: ‘They Have to Be Removed,’* NEWSNATION (Oct. 2, 2024) at approx. 12:45, <https://www.newsnationnow.com/politics/2024-election/trump-springfield-haitian-migrants-removed/> (“Springfield is such a beautiful place. Have you seen what’s happened to it? It’s been overrun. You can’t do that to people. . . . I’d revoke [TPS], and I’d bring [the migrants] back to their country.”).

<sup>149</sup> Edward Helmore, *More Bomb Threats Hit Springfield, Ohio, after Trump Elevates False Claims about Haitians*, THE GUARDIAN (Sep. 14, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/14/more-bomb-threats-hit-springfield-ohio-after-trump-elevates-false-claims-about-haitians>.

<sup>150</sup> *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 371 (citing President Trump’s statements that “Haitians ‘all have AIDS’” as evidence of racial animus).

1 of those [Haitian] people will probably have AIDS and they're coming into our country and we  
2 don't do anything about it. We let everybody come in. It's like a death wish for our country.”<sup>151</sup>

3 140. President Trump has often compared immigrants to snakes that will bite and kill  
4 anyone foolish enough to shelter them.<sup>152</sup> He has also described non-white immigrants as  
5 “animals.”<sup>153</sup> For example, President Trump said about some undocumented immigrants during a  
6 March 2024 rally, “I don't know if you call them people. In some cases they're not people, in my  
7 opinion, but I'm not allowed to say that[.]”<sup>154</sup>

8 141. President Trump has repeatedly described immigrants in the United States as an  
9 “invasion,” repeatedly conflating migrants with “criminals, gang members and terrorists.”<sup>155</sup>

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10 <sup>151</sup> *Trump Slams Haitians Attempting to Enter U.S., Says They 'Probably Have AIDS,'* ABC 7  
11 (Oct. 10, 2021), <https://abc7.com/haitian-migrants-donald-trump-former-president-immigration/11108741/>.

12 <sup>152</sup> See, e.g., Dara Lind, “*The Snake*”: Donald Trump Brings Back His Favorite Anti-Immigrant  
13 Fable at CPAC, VOX (Feb. 23, 2018), [www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac](http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/2/23/17044744/trump-snake-speech-cpac); see also Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *Trump Calls Some Unauthorized Immigrants 'Animals' in Rant*, N.Y. TIMES (May 16, 2018),  
14 [www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/us/politics/trump-undocumented-immigrants-animals.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/us/politics/trump-undocumented-immigrants-animals.html); see  
15 also John Bennett, “*Dumping Ground*”: Trump Echoes Conservative “Project 2025” at First  
16 Rally as Felon, ROLL CALL (June 10, 2024), <https://rollcall.com/2024/06/10/dumping-ground-trump-echoes-conservative-project-2025-at-first-rally-as-a-felon/> (“[W]e're taking in people that  
17 are a disaster for our country. So it's all happening at our border.... And we're not going to let it  
18 happen, we're not going to let them ruin our country, we're not going to let them destroy our  
country. . . . The whole country is being turned into an absolute dumping ground[.]”)

19 <sup>153</sup> Miriam Valverde, *In Context: Donald Trump's Comments about Immigrations, 'Animals,'*  
20 POLITIFACT (May 17, 2018), <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2018/may/17/context-donald-trumps-comments-about-immigrants-an/> (relying on  
21 MS-13 to claim that undocumented immigrants “aren't people. These are animals.”).

22 <sup>154</sup> Ariana Figueroa, *Trump Promises Mass Deportations of Undocumented People. How Would That Work?*, MISSOURI INDEPENDENT (Aug. 23, 2024),  
23 <https://missouriindependent.com/2024/08/23/trump-promises-mass-deportations-of-undocumented-people-how-would-that-work/>.

24 <sup>155</sup> See, e.g., Donald Trump, *Donald Trump: This Is How I Will End Joe Biden's Border Disaster on Day One*, DES MOINES REGISTER (Jan. 3, 2024),  
25 <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/caucus/2024/01/03/donald-trump-joe-biden-border-disaster/72093156007/> (“I am the only candidate who will stop this invasion.”);  
26 TIME, *Read the Full Transcripts of Donald Trump's Interviews with TIME*, Apr. 2024,  
27 <https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-2024-election/> (“This is an invasion of our  
country. An invasion like probably no country has ever seen before. They're coming in by the  
28 millions.”); see also Ben Zimmer, *Where Does Trump's 'Invasion' Rhetoric Come From?*, THE

142. President Trump, while campaigning in 2023, repeatedly decried non-white immigrants for “poisoning the blood of our country.”<sup>156</sup>

143. In October 2024, during an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, President Trump further emphasized the genetic inferiority of non-white immigrants. He said: “How about allowing people to come to an open border . . . . Many of them murdered far more than one person, and they’re now happily living in the United States.” He stated: “You know, now a murderer, I believe this, it’s in their genes. And we got a lot of bad genes in our country right now.” In contrast, when addressing a predominately white crowd at a campaign rally in Minnesota, he told them that they have “good genes.”<sup>157</sup>

144. At a rally one week before the 2024 election, President Trump described the country as “occupied” by criminal migrants—heaping scorn on “savage” Venezuelan gang members in particular. “We’re not going to have a country any longer. That’s who we’re allowing in. The United States is now an occupied country, but it will soon be an occupied country no longer. . . . November 5th, 2024 . . . will be Liberation Day in America. . . . I will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered.”<sup>158</sup>

145. During his first term in office, President Trump also conflated large groups of immigrants, and sometimes even all of them, with members of the MS-13 gang.<sup>159</sup> In his first State of the Union address, he suggested that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

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ATLANTIC (Aug. 6, 2019), <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2019/08/trump-immigrant-invasion-language-origins/595579/> (tracing the historical “roots of the ‘immigration invasion’ rhetoric that President Donald Trump has championed”); id. (discussing, for example, nineteenth-century rhetoric about a Chinese immigrant “invasion” “leading to” the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882).

<sup>156</sup> Dkt. 37-7 at 2; Raheem Kassam, Raheem Kassam Interviews Donald Trump, YOUTUBE (Sept. 2023) at approx. 1:34 to 1:45, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v283kLQbe1M&t=89s>.

<sup>157</sup> Jack Traylor *et al.*, *Trump Suggests Immigrants Have ‘Bad Genes’ in Latest Disparagement of Migrants*, NBC NEWS (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trumpsuggests-immigrants-bad-genes-latest-disparagement-migrants-rcna174271>.

<sup>158</sup> Dkt. 37-10 at 12.

<sup>159</sup> Terry Gross, *Trump Uses MS-13 To ‘Sell Draconian Overhauls of Border Issues,’ Journalist Says*, NPR (Feb. 15, 2018), <https://www.npr.org/2018/02/15/585937834/trump-uses-ms-13-to-sell-draconian-overhauls-of-border-issues-journalist-says>.

1 (“DACA”) program, recipients of which are immigrants first brought to the United States as  
 2 children many years ago, contributed to the spread of MS-13.<sup>160</sup>

3 146. During his first term, when referencing 40,000 Nigerian immigrants, he complained  
 4 that they would “never go back to their huts” in Africa, expressing his disdain for Black  
 5 immigrants.<sup>161</sup>

6 147. During a January 2025 interview on Fox News, President Trump falsely claimed  
 7 that people from “jails and mental institutions from other countries and gang members, right off  
 8 the streets of the toughest cities in the world, are being brought to the United States of America  
 9 and emptied out into our country.”<sup>162</sup> There is no basis for this claim.<sup>163</sup>

10 148. In the same interview, President Trump underscored his prejudice by stating that  
 11 “you can look at” “some” migrants “and you can say ‘could be trouble, could be trouble.’.”<sup>164</sup>

12 149. Like Secretary Noem, President Trump has singled out Venezuela for particular  
 13 opprobrium. He has contended that Venezuelans have “destroyed the fabric of our country.”<sup>165</sup>

14 150. President Trump has used dehumanizing language and repeatedly called Venezuelan  
 15 immigrants “animals.” For instance, in 2024 he asserted that, “[e]very day, Americans . . . are  
 16 living in fear all because [former Vice President] Kamala Harris decided to empty the slums and  
 17 prison cells of Caracas [Venezuela] and many other places . . . . And we have to live with these  
 18  
 19

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20 <sup>160</sup> Liz Robbins, *Why Was MS-13 Targeted in Trump’s Speech?*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 31, 2018),  
 21 <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/31/nyregion/ms-13-gang-trump.html>.

22 <sup>161</sup> Michael D. Shear & Julie Hirschfeld Davis, *Stoking Fears, Trump Defied Bureaucracy to*  
*Advance Immigration Agenda*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 23, 2017),  
 23 <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/23/us/politics/trump-immigration.html>.

24 <sup>162</sup> Dkt. 37-13 at 23.

25 <sup>163</sup> See ¶ 133, *supra*.

26 <sup>164</sup> *Id.* at approx. 19:10.

27 <sup>165</sup> See also CBS NEWS, *Simulcast – ABC News Presidential Debate*, C-SPAN (Sept. 10, 2024) at  
 28 approx. 33:40, <https://www.c-span.org/program/campaign-2024/simulcast-abc-news-presidential-debate/648383> (“They allowed people to come in, drug dealers, to come into our country, and they’re now in the United States. And told by their countries like Venezuela don’t ever come back or we’re going to kill you. . . . There’s never been anything done like this at all. They’ve destroyed the fabric of our country. Millions of people let in.”).

animals, but we're not going to live with them for long, you watch.”<sup>166</sup> He also stated that he was “talking a lot about Venezuela because Aurora [Colorado] is really infected by Venezuela.”<sup>167</sup> Local officials rejected these assertions.<sup>168</sup> One analysis by Axios of 109 of President Trump’s speeches, debates, and interviews found that he called Venezuelan migrants “criminals” at least seventy times between September 1, 2023 to October 2, 2024.<sup>169</sup>

151. In March 2025, the Trump administration dramatically escalated its rhetoric and actions against Venezuelans, relying on purported TdA membership as justification for deporting more than 200 Venezuelans to a Salvadoran terrorist detention center, in apparent violation of a court order.<sup>170</sup> The administration cited the Alien Enemies Act—a 1798 law that facilitates deportation during wartime—despite the lack of armed conflict between Venezuela and the United States. In a March 15, 2025 “Proclamation”—“Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion of the United States by Tren de Aragua”—President Trump asserted that TdA members “are conducting irregular warfare and undertaking hostile actions against the United States” and proclaimed them “Alien Enemies” subject to immediate and summary apprehension, detention and

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<sup>166</sup> Dkt. 37-9 at 32–33; Fox News, *Donald Trump Delivers Remarks at Rally in Reading, PA*, YOUTUBE (Oct. 9, 2024) at approx. 29:55, 30:07, <https://www.youtube.com/live/QuoT6T3fbU0?t=1791s> (similar).

<sup>167</sup> Dkt. 37-9 at 34.

<sup>168</sup> See ¶ 131, *supra*; Jonathan Weisman, *How the False Story of a Gang ‘Takeover’ in Colorado Reached Trump*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/15/us/politics/trump-aurora-colorado-immigration.html> (quoting the Republican mayor of Aurora, Colorado, along with a Republican City Council member, decrying gang takeover narrative as “simply not true”).

<sup>169</sup> Russell Contreras, Delano Massey, & Erin Davis, *Trump keeps calling Venezuelan and Congolese migrants criminals*, AXIOS (Oct. 5, 2024), <https://www.axios.com/2024/10/05/trump-migrants-venezuelan-congolese-rhetoric>.

<sup>170</sup> *President Trump Delivers Justice to Terrorists, Security for Americans*, THE WHITE HOUSE (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/president-trump-delivers-justice-for-terrorists-security-for-americans/#:~:text=America%20First%20Legal%3A%20%E2%80%9CPresident%20Trump,the%20country's%20maximum%2Dsecurity%20prison> (“America First Legal: ‘President Trump has deported 238 criminals in the violent Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua to El Salvador to be imprisoned in CECOT, the country’s maximum-security prison.”); Trump Administration Deports Hundreds of Immigrants Even as a Judge Orders their Removals Be Stopped, A.P. (Mar. 17, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/trump-venezuela-el-salvador-immigration-dd4f61999f85c4dd8bcaba7d4fc7c9af>.



1 removal if they are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.<sup>171</sup> President Trump applauded  
 2 the deportations on social media, using dehumanizing language. He posted a video of deported  
 3 Venezuelans being roughly hustled off a plane in El Salvador in the dark of night, bent over, amid  
 4 a massive security presence, describing the Venezuelans as “monsters.”<sup>172</sup>

5 152. President Trump has a long history of making false statements associating  
 6 Venezuelan refugees with criminality. He has falsely stated that Venezuelan “prisons are . . . at the  
 7 lowest point in terms of emptiness that they’ve ever been[.]” because Venezuela was “taking their  
 8 people out of those prisons by the thousands” and sending them to the United States.<sup>173</sup>

9 153. President Trump has also made disparaging remarks about Latin American countries  
 10 and people, frequently relying on crude and derogatory stereotypes to stoke fear about  
 11 immigration.

12 154. President Trump has also repeatedly “retweeted” avowed white nationalists, such as  
 13 @WhiteGenocideTM, as well as publicly dined with prominent, self-declared white supremacists,  
 14 thereby endorsing their racist views and amplifying their racist message.<sup>174</sup>

15 155. The Trump Administration has not shown similar opposition to immigrant  
 16 populations perceived as white. On the contrary, on February 7, 2025 President Trump signed  
 17 Executive Order No. 14204, *Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa*, which  
 18 directs Secretary Noem (among others) to:

19  
 20  
 21 <sup>171</sup> Donald J. Trump, Proclamation: Invocation of the Alien Enemies Act Regarding the Invasion  
 22 of the United States by Tren de Aragua, Mar. 15, 2025, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/)  
 23 [actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/)  
 24 [by-tren-de-aragua/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/invocation-of-the-alien-enemies-act-regarding-the-invasion-of-the-united-states-by-tren-de-aragua/).

25 <sup>172</sup> @realDonaldTrump, TRUTH SOCIAL (Mar. 16, 2025),  
 26 <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114173862724361939>.

27 <sup>173</sup> Dkt. 37-12 at 11 (December 2024 interview).

28 <sup>174</sup> Benjy Sarlin, *Donald Trump Retweets Apparent Neo-Nazi Supporter*, NBC NEWS (Jan. 22, 2016), [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-supporter-n502136)  
[supporter-n502136](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2016-election/donald-trump-tweets-apparent-neo-nazi-supporter-n502136); Eric Lichtblau, *Trump amplifies racist lies, giving neo-Nazis ‘real power.’* *Where are GOP leaders?* USA TODAY (Sep. 23, 2024),  
[https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-springfield/75301951007/)  
[springfield/75301951007/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2024/09/23/trump-far-right-haitian-immigrants-springfield/75301951007/).



[T]ake appropriate steps, consistent with law, to prioritize humanitarian relief, including admission and resettlement through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, for Afrikaners in South Africa who are victims of unjust racial discrimination.

156. The White House referred to Afrikaner activists who lobbied for the Trump Administration’s support as “civil rights leaders.”<sup>175</sup> Trump’s Executive Order to protect white South Africans yet again makes clear that his administration strongly prefers white immigrants over those perceived as non-white.

157. Together, all of President Trump’s repeated statements denigrating immigrants perceived to be non-white, and targeting Venezuelans, Haitians, and TPS holders in particular, have not functioned merely as hateful rhetoric. They have also worked as a call to action for those serving him.

#### **Statements of Trump Surrogates**

158. Like President Trump, prominent officials who exerted influence to ensure that DHS’s decision-making process on TPS favored termination also harbor racial animus against immigrants perceived as non-white in general and Venezuelans and Haitians in particular. These officials have been motivated by their racial animosity to intervene in and influence the TPS decision-making process towards termination.

159. For example, Vice President Vance has repeatedly amplified unfounded rumors about Haitian immigrants eating pets. Despite the lack of corroborating evidence, he declared that if he “ha[s] to create stories” about Haitian migrants “so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that’s what I’m going to do.”<sup>176</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> John Eligon, *Trump Tries to Use White South Africans as Cautionary Tale*, NY TIMES (March 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/15/world/africa/south-africa-whites-trump.html>.

<sup>176</sup> Kit Maher & Chris Boyette, *JD Vance Defends Baseless Rumor About Haitian Immigrants Eating Pets*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2024), <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/15/politics/vance-immigrants-pets-springfield-ohio-cnntv/index.html>; see also Rachel Leingang, *Republicans Spread Baseless Slurs about ‘Cat-Eating Migrants’ in Ohio City*, THE GUARDIAN (Sept. 9, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/sep/09/republicans-haitian-migrants-pets-wildlife-ohio>.

160. Additionally, Vice President Vance disparaged Haitian TPS holders with longstanding stereotypes<sup>177</sup> of immigrants as dangerous criminals and spreaders of disease. He accused Haitians in Springfield of triggering “a massive rise in communicable diseases, rent prices, car insurance rates, and crime,” stating “[t]his is what happens when you drop 20,000 people into a small community.”<sup>178</sup> He specifically stated that Haitians caused “TB and HIV” to be “on the rise.”<sup>179</sup>

161. Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, has long expressed support for White Nationalism, “promoted white nationalist literature,” and “pushed racist immigration stories” to the media.<sup>180</sup> Miller lauded historical immigration laws that imposed quotas based on racist assumptions.<sup>181</sup> For years, Miller promoted the ideas that non-white immigrants were uniquely violent and targeted Americans with that violence.<sup>182</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> Dkt. 22 ¶¶ 20, 22, 23, 25 (expert declaration of Professor Elliott Young tracing the historical use of these tropes).

<sup>178</sup> J.D. Vance (@JDVance), X (Sept. 13, 2024), <https://x.com/jdvance/status/1834584115825226087?s=46>; see also WCNC, *JD Vance Has Heated Exchange Over Claims Migrants Are Eating Pets in Ohio*, YOUTUBE (Sept. 11, 2024), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqjLoSNkyDs> (“That small migrant community has caused a lot of problems. It’s led to higher rates of communicable diseases, that’s a verifiable fact. It’s led to animals disappearing, many of my constituents have said that has been happening.”).

<sup>179</sup> J.D. Vance (@JDVance), X (Sept. 10, 2024), <https://x.com/jdvance/status/1833505359513661762?s=46>.

<sup>180</sup> Michael Edison Hayden, *Stephen Miller’s Affinity for White Nationalism Revealed in Leaked Emails*, SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (Nov. 12, 2019), <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2019/11/12/stephen-millers-affinity-white-nationalism-revealed-leaked-emails>.

<sup>181</sup> Adam Serwer, *Trump’s White-Nationalist Vanguard*, THE ATLANTIC (Nov. 19, 2019), <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/11/stephen-miller-alarming-emails/602242/> (“A cache of Miller’s emails . . . show Miller praising racist immigration restrictions from a century ago, while bitterly lamenting the law that repealed them.”).

<sup>182</sup> Nicole Narea, *Stephen Miller sought to link immigrants to crime and terrorism in private emails to Breitbart*, VOX (Nov. 25, 2019), <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/11/12/20961458/stephen-miller-white-supremacist-anti-immigrant-emails-breitbart-southern-poverty-law-center>.

1 162. Miller has been described as an “early architect[] of the Trump administration’s  
 2 immigration policies,” and has prioritized curtailing both legal and illegal immigration.<sup>183</sup> When  
 3 he was the senior advisor to the President during Trump’s first term in office, Miller repeatedly  
 4 called DHS officials to urge termination of TPS.<sup>184</sup>

5 163. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who was purportedly consulted in Secretary  
 6 Noem’s review of the Venezuela and Haiti TPS designations, has demonstrated how Trump  
 7 surrogates respond to his call to action. In 2022, when he was Senator, Rubio *advocated* for the  
 8 extension of TPS for Venezuela, calling it “absolutely essential” to avoid a “very real death  
 9 sentence for countless Venezuelans who have fled their country.”<sup>185</sup> He even co-sponsored  
 10 legislation to redesignate TPS for Venezuela.<sup>186</sup> However, more recently, Secretary Rubio  
 11 embraced President Trump’s racist talking points about Venezuela, espousing in 2024 the  
 12 “exaggerate[ed]” depiction of Tren de Aragua as “an invading criminal army from a prison in  
 13 Venezuela that has spread their brutality and chaos to U.S. cities and small towns.”<sup>187</sup>

#### 14 **The Trump Administration’s Previous Racist Attempts to End TPS**

15 164. This is not the first time that an administration guided by President Trump has  
 16 embarked on an unlawful campaign to destroy TPS in violation of the APA and Equal Protection  
 17 Clause.

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 19 <sup>183</sup> THE CHARLIE KIRK SHOW, *Sweeping Raids, Mass Deportations: Donald Trump’s 2025 Plan to*  
 20 *Fix the Border* (Nov. 14, 2023), [https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-](https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025)  
 21 [show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025](https://thecharliekirkshow.com/podcasts/the-charlie-kirk-show/sweeping-raids-mass-deportations-donald-trumps-2025); *see also* Lauren Villgran, *Who is*  
 22 *Stephen Miller, architect of Donald Trump’s mass deportation plans?*, USA TODAY (Nov. 25,  
 23 *2024), [https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/21/stephen-miller-](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/21/stephen-miller-trumps-mass-deportation-architect/76260908007/)*  
*trumps-mass-deportation-architect/76260908007/*; Elliot Spagat, *Trump picks a pair of*  
*experienced advisers motivated to carry out his immigration crackdown*, ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 24 NEWS (Nov. 12, 2024), [https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-](https://apnews.com/article/immigration-deportation-homan-miller-trump-border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb)  
*border-abb1a75497d11c978c369cb20016eeeb*.

25 <sup>184</sup> *See Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d. at 1098.

26 <sup>185</sup> Senators Marco Rubio & Robert Menendez, *Letter to Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas* (Mar. 31,  
 27 2022), [https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/menendez-rubio-letter-to-dhs-re-venezuela-tps-april12022.pdf)  
*tps-april12022.pdf*.

28 <sup>186</sup> *See* Venezuela Temporary Protected Status Act of 2021, S. 50, 117th Cong. (2021-2022).

<sup>187</sup> Charles Larratt-Smith & John Polga-Hecimovich, *How Much of a Threat is Tren de Aragua in the U.S.?*, AMERICAS QUARTERLY (Dec. 9, 2024), [https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-](https://americasquarterly.org/article/how-much-of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/)  
*of-a-threat-is-tren-de-aragua-in-the-u-s/*.

1           165. During President Trump’s first term, every federal district court to consider the  
 2 question found “evidence that President Trump harbors an animus against non-white, non-  
 3 European aliens which influenced his (and thereby the Secretary’s) decision to end the TPS  
 4 designation[s]” for El Salvador, Haiti, Sudan, and Nicaragua in 2017 and 2018.<sup>188</sup>

5           166. The evidence adduced in those cases further illustrates that the conduct challenged  
 6 here is part of a premeditated effort to terminate TPS without regard to applicable law or  
 7 standards, and to further a racist agenda.<sup>189</sup>

8           167. Political appointees during the first Trump administration also sought to paint TPS  
 9 holders as criminals and to manufacture evidence to support this impossible claim—to justify the  
 10 termination of designations, and the undermining of the TPS program. A federal district court  
 11 found that Acting Secretary Duke decided to terminate TPS for Haiti for the sake of “agenda  
 12 adherence” to the “America first” platform, without regard to her consideration of country  
 13 conditions under the TPS statute.<sup>190</sup> Acting Secretary Duke specifically sought out a rationale to  
 14 “separate” out Haiti.<sup>191</sup> Additionally, subordinates of then-DHS Secretary John Kelly covertly  
 15 sought data on the number of Haitian TPS holders who committed crimes and relied on public  
 16 assistance, despite the fact that virtually any criminal record is disqualifying for TPS.<sup>192</sup> Secretary

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18           <sup>188</sup> *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1100; *see also Centro Presente*, 332 F. Supp. 3d at 415 (“find[ing]  
 19 that the combination of a disparate impact on particular racial groups, statements of animus by  
 20 people plausibly alleged to be involved in the decision-making process, and an allegedly  
 21 unreasoned shift in policy sufficient to allege plausibly that a discriminatory purpose was a  
 22 motivating factor in a decision” to terminate TPS for Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras); *Saget*, 375  
 23 F. Supp. 3d at 372 (finding that “evidence of White House . . . animus toward non-white  
 24 immigrants, including Haitians specifically, raises at the very least serious questions going to the  
 25 merits of Plaintiffs’ equal protection claim” challenging the termination of TPS for Haiti).

26           <sup>189</sup> *See, e.g., Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1101, 1104 (describing how, *i.e.*, “[t]he record evidence  
 27 indicates that, after receiving Decision Memos from career DHS employees, higher-level DHS  
 28 employees – *i.e.*, the political appointees – were ‘repackaging’ the memos in order to get to the  
 President/White House’s desired result of terminating TPS”; and how “Acting Secretary Duke  
 expressly acknowledged that the terminations of TPS designations were ‘a strong break with past  
 practice,’ . . . – designed to fit the President’s objectives on immigration which would put  
 ‘America first.’”); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 322.

<sup>190</sup> *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 343, 347–48, 359–62.

<sup>191</sup> *Id.*

<sup>192</sup> *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1104–05; *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 307–09.

1 Kelly and other DHS and USCIS personnel tried to use these data to demonstrate that extending  
 2 TPS to Haitians would not be in the “national interest.”<sup>193</sup> A federal district court found that “[t]he  
 3 information sought by the Secretary [Kelly] coincides with racial stereotypes – *i.e.*, that non-  
 4 whites commit crimes and are on the public dole.”<sup>194</sup>

5 168. During President Trump’s first term in office, the pressure from President Trump  
 6 and the White House on the DHS Secretary’s TPS decision-making was less evident and public  
 7 than here. The federal district court nonetheless found that “Acting Secretary Duke’s writings  
 8 suggest that she, in her role at DHS, was largely carrying out or conforming with a predetermined  
 9 presidential agenda to end TPS.”<sup>195</sup> There, Acting Secretary Duke, in separate personal writings,  
 10 expressed that her TPS decision-making was based on “an America first view,” a term that  
 11 invoked then-President Trump’s racist views preferring immigration from majority-white  
 12 European countries.<sup>196</sup> Here, by contrast, Secretary Noem has included President Trump’s  
 13 “America First” objectives expressly in the published Federal Register notice terminating TPS.

14 **THE TERMINATION OF TPS STATUS WOULD IMPOSE**  
 15 **EXTRAORDINARY AND IRREPARABLE HARM ON TPS HOLDERS, THEIR**  
 16 **FAMILIES, AND THEIR COMMUNITIES**

17 169. More than 1.1 million TPS holders will lose the TPS status they were scheduled to  
 18 have as a result of Defendants’ vacatur. More than 350,000 Venezuelan TPS holders stand to lose  
 19 their employment authorization as soon as April 2, 2025 and their legal status on April 7, 2025 as  
 20 a result of the termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation. The remainder have seen the status  
 21 granted them under lawful decisions of the previous administration cut short. When their countries  
 22 come up for review next—no later than June 2025 for 500,000 Haitians and July 2025 for the  
 23 remaining 250,000 Venezuelans—Secretary Noem will likely terminate their status without regard  
 24

25 <sup>193</sup> 8 U.S.C. §§ 1254a(c)(2)(B), *Id.* § 1254a(b)(1)(C); *Saget*, 375 F. Supp. 3d at 353.

26 <sup>194</sup> *Ramos*, 336 F. Supp. 3d at 1105.

27 <sup>195</sup> *Id.* at 1099.

28 <sup>196</sup> *Id.* at 1099–1100, 1104; Brief of Amici Curiae, The Anti-Defamation League, *et al.*, *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case No. 18-16981, ECF No. 31 at 21 (9th Cir. Feb. 7, 2019).

1 to the country conditions, contrary to statute. The scale of the harm wrought by Defendants'  
2 actions to eliminate TPS protection for Venezuelans and Haitians will be massive if not reversed.

3 **Loss of Legal Status, Employment Authorization, and Drivers Licenses**

4 170. TPS holders are facing the imminent loss of legal status, and as a result, are already  
5 being forced to make the impossible choice whether to return to a country in crisis, remain in the  
6 United States without lawful immigration status, or uproot themselves again to try to find refuge  
7 in some third country. For most, this is hardly a choice at all. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders  
8 cannot safely return to their countries of origin.<sup>197</sup>

9 171. Moreover, due to the lack of diplomatic relations between the United States and  
10 Venezuela, Venezuelan TPS holders without valid passports lack the requisite documentation to  
11 travel voluntarily to Venezuela or a third country.<sup>198</sup>

12 172. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has a flight ban to Haiti, and numerous  
13 airlines have indefinitely suspended flights to Haiti, in light of security risks from armed gangs  
14 and planes being hit by gunfire while attempting to land.<sup>199</sup>

15 173. Without TPS, many Venezuelans and Haitians will be at immediate risk of  
16 deportation to unsafe countries. Venezuela has experienced an exodus of one-fourth of its  
17 population in the past decade. Thousands of refugees have also fled Haiti, as it suffers from  
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19

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20 <sup>197</sup> Both Venezuela and Haiti have the highest level “Do Not Travel” advisories from the U.S.  
21 government due to serious security risks, instability, and lack of health care infrastructure. *See,*  
22 *e.g., Venezuela*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS (Sep. 24, 2024),  
[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html)  
23 [Information-Pages/Venezuela.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Venezuela.html); *Haiti*, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF CONSULAR  
AFFAIRS (Sep. 18, 2024),  
24 [https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/haiti-travel-advisory.html)  
advisory.html.

25 <sup>198</sup> *A Painful Passport Paradox Is Trapping Venezuelans Living Abroad*, BLOOMBERG, Oct. 14,  
2024, [https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-10-14/venezuela-election-fallout-traps-](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-10-14/venezuela-election-fallout-traps-migrants-in-passport-limbo)  
migrants-in-passport-limbo.

26 <sup>199</sup> *FAA Extends US Flight Ban to Haiti’s Capital Through Summer 2025*, THE HAITIAN TIMES,  
27 Mar. 12, 2025, [https://haitiantimes.com/2025/03/12/faa-extends-u-s-flight-ban-to-haitis-capital-](https://haitiantimes.com/2025/03/12/faa-extends-u-s-flight-ban-to-haitis-capital-through-summer-2025/)  
through-summer-2025/, Tania Francois, *FAA Prohibits Flights to Haiti for 30 Days After 3 Jets*  
28 *Hit By Gunfire*, CBS NEWS, Nov. 13, 2024, [https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/airlines-](https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/airlines-cancel-flights-to-haiti-after-two-planes-were-hit-by-gunfire/)  
cancel-flights-to-haiti-after-two-planes-were-hit-by-gunfire/.



1 political chaos, severe gang violence, systemic human rights violations, and widespread  
 2 deprivation of basic healthcare, clean drinking water, and food supplies.

3 174. Some Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders may currently be seeking other legal  
 4 avenues to remain in this country (such as asylum or adjustment of status). However, due to the  
 5 yearslong asylum backlog, affirmative asylum applications remain long-pending, and do not  
 6 guarantee an individual protection from either detention or deportation in the interim. Defendants'  
 7 actions also threaten detention and deportation for TPS holders who do not presently have  
 8 alternative paths to legal status, even though TPS was established expressly to serve this  
 9 population—individuals who cannot safely return but may not fit the specific legal requirements  
 10 of asylum. The loss of TPS in some instances also limits the possibility of acquiring a permanent  
 11 legal status for which an individual would otherwise be eligible, but for which present legal status  
 12 is a prerequisite.<sup>200</sup> TPS holders who lose their status may also face a years-long statutory bar to  
 13 re-entry whether they depart on their own or are deported.<sup>201</sup>

14 175. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders also face the prospect of losing employment  
 15 authorization. This may result in their summary dismissal from their place of work, jeopardizing  
 16 their and their families' financial stability. Without stable employment, some TPS holders risk  
 17 losing their homes or other material assets, leading to further economic harm. Many Venezuelan  
 18 and Haitian TPS holders also face the imminent loss of their drivers' licenses and, with them, their  
 19 mobility and freedom of movement, because in many states drivers' licenses are limited to those  
 20 with legal status.<sup>202</sup> Moreover, because the Secretary's termination decision goes into effect so  
 21 quickly, Venezuelan TPS holders have been afforded almost no time to make alternative  
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 23

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24 <sup>200</sup> See Temporary Protected Status: An Overview, AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL (Jan. 2025),  
 25 [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary\\_protected\\_stat](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_status_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf)  
 26 [us\\_-\\_an\\_overview\\_1-16-2025.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/temporary_protected_status_-_an_overview_1-16-2025.pdf) (noting some TPS recipients may be eligible to adjust status).

26 <sup>201</sup> 8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(A)(ii), (B)(i)(II).

27 <sup>202</sup> See, e.g., California DMV, REAL ID Checklist, [https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/)  
 28 [licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/real-id/real-id-checklist/) (listing documents showing immigration  
 status as requirements for REAL ID driver's licenses).



arrangements for themselves and their families, including by applying for other forms of immigration relief, employment authorization, or drivers' licenses for which they are eligible.

**Other Harms to TPS Holders: Family Separation, Psychological Harm, and Stigma**

176. The loss of legal status renders TPS holders vulnerable to separation from U.S. citizen children and other loved ones. There are many Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders in mixed-status families—with children, spouses, partners, elderly parents, and other family members who are U.S. citizens or Green Card holders. These TPS holders face the risk of being forced to leave their family members behind, or bringing their U.S. citizen children (or other family members) to a country in economic and political ruin, where severe repression is pervasive.

177. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders have been experiencing tremendous emotional and psychological harm since the challenged decisions. This has resulted in heightened anxiety, trauma, insomnia, and depression, in some cases severe enough to result in acts of self-harm. The psychological harms resulting from Defendants' actions will only increase as the effective date approaches.

178. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holders have also suffered the additional constitutional harm of being subject to an administrative action motivated by racial, ethnic, or national-origin discrimination. Many describe the emotional pain of being subjected to racist attacks by high-ranking U.S. government officials. Some also live in fear of leaving the house, speaking their native language, or disclosing their nationality due to the racist targeting of Venezuelans, Haitians, and other non-white migrants.

**Harm to Plaintiffs**

179. **Plaintiff National TPS Alliance** has over 130,000 Venezuelan and Haitian TPS holder members. These members are anxious and desperate. Many are making plans to sell homes and cars, end leases, and collect their belongings in preparation to leave the country, if needed. But they do not believe they can safely return to Venezuela or Haiti because they remain politically unstable, unsafe, and repressive, and because the economies of these countries are in total collapse. If the United States will not allow them to stay, they do not know where they will go or what they will do. Among them:

1           a)     NTPSA member **A.V.** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2023 designation. He lives in  
 2     Alabama and works full-time on the night shift at an auto parts manufacturer. As the 2024  
 3     presidential election drew near, A.V. began struggling with severe anxiety and fears that he would  
 4     lose his TPS status. News reports about President Trump’s plans to deport all immigrants  
 5     awakened a deep sense of dread in him, as he is terrified to return to Venezuela. As a result of  
 6     Defendants’ actions, in April 2025 he faces the loss of his job, driver’s license, and legal right to  
 7     remain in the United States. His uncle, uncle’s wife, and their three-year old son all rely on TPS.  
 8     Another cousin relies on TPS, and lives with her two U.S. citizen children.

9           b)     NTPSA member **M.R.** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2021 designation. She lives in  
 10    West Virginia and works two jobs—full-time in the health care sector and part-time at  
 11    McDonald’s. She is the sole provider for her two minor children and elderly mother. As a result of  
 12    Defendants’ actions, in September 2025 M.R. faces the loss of her legal status, work  
 13    authorization, and driver’s license, as well as health care for her chronically ill daughter and  
 14    mother. Her twelve-year-old daughter and elderly mother also rely on TPS for their legal status;  
 15    her five-year-old daughter is a U.S. citizen and faces the prospect of being separated from her  
 16    family if their TPS is terminated.

17          c)     NTPSA member **Laura Guerrero** has TPS under Venezuela’s 2021 designation.  
 18    She has been waiting over nine years with a pending asylum application. She fears being in  
 19    limbo—with limited access to employment, without legal status, and at risk of deportation—if her  
 20    TPS is terminated. Her elder daughter, a TPS holder, is currently in her first year as an  
 21    undergraduate at a prestigious music school, but stands to lose the full scholarship that TPS  
 22    affords her. Laura has suffered panic attacks since the vacatur announcement.

23          d)     NTPSA member **C.D.**, a 60-year-old father of three, holds TPS under Venezuela’s  
 24    2021 designation. He lives in Houston, Texas with his wife, where they own their home. They  
 25    have consistently paid their taxes. C.D. works for a temporary staffing agency and was recently  
 26    diagnosed with prostate cancer. If, due to Defendants’ actions, he loses his TPS in September  
 27    2025, he will lose his job and be unable to pay for his mortgage and health care, which would be  
 28    economically devastating for him and his wife. Losing TPS would also expose C.D. to the risk of

1 being deported from the United States, which would inflict many harms, including preventing him  
2 from accessing the medical care he needs to treat his cancer.

3 e) NTPSA member **Stanley Louis** holds TPS under Haiti's 2023 designation. Stanley  
4 became an orphan at the age of seven. He is now 40 years old and lives in Seattle, Washington  
5 where he studies International Business and Trade at a local college. Stanley applied to extend his  
6 TPS pursuant to the July 2024 extension and received TPS related documentation confirming his  
7 legal status and work authorization through February 3, 2026. However, the partial vacatur  
8 purports to move up the expiration date for his work authorization and lawful status to August 3,  
9 2025. Stanley recently interviewed for a security position at the airport but can no longer accept  
10 the job because it requires employment authorization valid for at least six months, which Stanley  
11 can no longer show. Stanley is afraid that Secretary Noem will terminate TPS for Haiti, as she did  
12 with Venezuela, regardless of conditions in Haiti that make it impossible for Stanley to safely  
13 return. TPS is Stanley's only source of work authorization and protection against deportation.

14 f) **D.F.** is 28 years old, a member of NTPSA, and lives in the Northeast. Born in Haiti,  
15 she has resided in the United States since the age of nine and has had TPS since 2010. Her mother,  
16 father, sister, and several other relatives also rely on TPS. She has one younger brother who is a  
17 U.S. citizen. D.F. holds a Bachelor's degree in health science and a Master's degree in healthcare  
18 administration. She worked full time to put herself through undergraduate and graduate school,  
19 and now works as a program manager for a mobile healthcare unit, providing medical and dental  
20 care to underserved populations in the state she now calls home. TPS is what has allowed D.F. to  
21 work, obtain an advanced degree, and pursue a meaningful and impactful career in community  
22 healthcare. She has no other form of protection or relief from deportation. If she loses her TPS  
23 status, D.F.'s career will be irreparably harmed as she will be unable to continue working. She will  
24 be left without a means to support herself, and many of her family members will be in similarly  
25 desperate circumstances. At the same time, D.F. feels it is impossible for her to return to Haiti,  
26 where the current government, unable to protect the people who live there, is obviously incapable  
27 of safely receiving the hundreds of thousands of Haitians who have been residing in the United  
28 States under TPS.

g) **J.P.L.** is a 24-year-old Haitian TPS holder and NTPSA member who resides in Florida. She speaks four languages, is employed as a paralegal, and hopes to someday become an attorney. TPS is her only protection from deportation. She has several family members in the United States, including her grandparents who are U.S. citizens. Her husband is also a TPS holder. If TPS for Haiti is terminated in August, J.P.L. will no longer be able to work to support herself in the United States and will be left with no legal status. However, J.P.L. cannot safely return to Haiti. There, she experienced violence and threats and the police refused to protect her. Since the decision to shorten the timeframe of TPS for Haiti was announced, J.P.L. has been experiencing constant fear and anxiety, making it hard to focus on her work, education, and even her personal well-being.

h) **B.P.** is a Haitian TPS holder and member of the NTPSA. He has lived in the Northeast since 2021 with his family. He sought asylum at the border with his wife and son and has a pending asylum application with USCIS. B.P. and his wife received TPS in 2023 and extended their TPS in 2024. Their son is enrolled in elementary school, where he has quickly learned English and made friends. Their family welcomed a daughter in 2023. Now 15 months old, B.P.'s daughter is a U.S. citizen. B.P. was working at a gas station until he became sick. He is currently receiving medical treatment for a neurological issue—treatment he believes would be impossible to access in Haiti. His wife is a home health aide, providing vital care to seniors. If B.P. and his wife lose their TPS, they would be vulnerable to detention and deportation proceedings, risking family separation. B.P. and his wife cannot go back to Haiti, a country their children do not know and where they believe their lives would be in danger. B.P. struggles to sleep at night thinking about what his family will do if they lose TPS.

i) **Esther** (a pseudonym) is a Haitian TPS holder and member of the NTPSA. She was lawfully admitted to the U.S. on a tourist visa with her family before the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after arriving, Esther's young brother got very sick and was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a chronic disease that can be debilitating, especially without treatment, which he would not be able to receive in Haiti. Then the pandemic unfolded, and travel became impossible. Esther's brother relies on TPS to qualify for his health insurance, which covers his chronic care,

1 helping him manage his symptoms enough to graduate high school this year. Esther's mother  
2 relies on her work authorization to support the family. Esther also relies on her work authorization  
3 to support herself and save to go back to school. After taking English classes and other general  
4 education requirements, Esther was accepted into a nursing program last fall. She accepted the  
5 offer based on her eighteen-month TPS extension, assured she would be able to complete at least  
6 the first year of the program under her current TPS status. Now she faces the uncertainty that she  
7 could lose her TPS after just one semester, putting into jeopardy all of her hard work.

8       180. **Plaintiff Mariela González**, a long-time educator, has lived in the United States for  
9 fourteen years and is currently employed by an urban school district. She faces termination of her  
10 legal status and work authorization in September 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. She  
11 lacks a valid passport and could not legally travel even if she could safely return to Venezuela,  
12 which she cannot. Moreover, all of Mariela's immediate family—her parents, siblings, and  
13 nephews—reside in the United States and have permanent status.

14       181. **Plaintiff Freddy Jose Arape Rivas** fled Venezuela due to worsening conditions,  
15 including rising repression and violence against opposition members, and a collapsing economy  
16 where it became impossible to obtain basic necessities. He works in the IT sector in Texas. He  
17 will lose his legal status, employment authorization, and driver's license in April 2025 as a result  
18 of Defendants' actions. He also fears he will lose the possibility of an H-1B visa, for which he has  
19 a pending application through his employer, because he has been told he will no longer be eligible  
20 without lawful status.

21       182. **Plaintiff M.H.** lives in Tennessee, graduated from a Venezuelan university with a  
22 nursing degree, and is currently the primary caregiver for her two children—the elder a TPS  
23 holder, and the younger a U.S. citizen with severe asthma. M.H.'s husband works full-time for a  
24 government subcontractor. M.H.'s two-year-old son faces an uncertain fate should TPS be  
25 terminated—unable to live safely in Venezuela, particularly with a serious and chronic health  
26 condition, but facing the possibility of being separated from his mother and sister following the  
27 termination of their TPS in April 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. M.H. has a mandatory  
28 check-in with ICE in May 2025, the month after she is scheduled to lose her TPS.

1           183. **Plaintiff Cecilia González Herrera** came to the United States in 2017, at the age of  
2 18, and has lived her entire adult life in this country. She was a student activist in Venezuela, and  
3 now attends university and works as a voting rights advocate in Florida. Her mental health has  
4 suffered as a result of Defendants' actions, and she faces the loss of the ability to pay in-state  
5 tuition for university, which TPS affords her. She has also abandoned the prospect of postgraduate  
6 education as a result of the uncertainty created by the termination announcement. And because of  
7 Defendants' repeated statements targeting Venezuelans as "dirtbags" and gang members, she feels  
8 unwanted in a country that has been her home for eight years.

9           184. **Plaintiff Alba Cecilia Purica Hernandez** is a childcare provider in San Leandro,  
10 California. Her deportation proceedings were terminated on account of her TPS registration.  
11 However, she risks losing her legal status and employment authorization in April 2025 as a result  
12 of Defendants' actions. She cannot safely return to Venezuela. Nor can she practically return as  
13 she lacks a valid Venezuelan passport. Alba has felt sad, scared and adrift since the announcement  
14 of the termination of TPS for Venezuela, and feels that the decision is reflective of a perception at  
15 the highest levels of the U.S. government that Venezuelans and non-white migrants are less than  
16 human.

17           185. **Plaintiff E.R.** and her twelve-year-old daughter live in New York where E.R. works  
18 the night shift in a makeup packaging factory to be able to take her daughter to and from school.  
19 E.R. has legal status and employment authorization only through TPS and risks losing her  
20 employment on April 2, 2025 as a result of Defendants' actions. She is the sole provider for her  
21 twelve-year-old daughter, who also has TPS. As a result of an accident which required her to get  
22 twenty staples in her head, E.R. requires medical care which she would not be able to get in  
23 Venezuela. She and her daughter have a mandatory check-in with ICE in June 2025, two months  
24 after they are scheduled to lose their TPS status.

25           186. **Plaintiff Hendrina Vivas Castillo** is a mother and former business owner who  
26 works as a delivery driver in Los Angeles, California. In Venezuela, the economic crisis forced  
27 her to shut down her business and she faced mounting political repression, including the arrest of  
28 her business's co-owner. As a result of Defendants' actions, she risks losing her TPS and

1 employment authorization in April 2025. Hendrina is terrified of going back to Venezuela and  
2 does not know what she will do if her TPS is terminated.

3 187. **Plaintiff A.C.A.** is a Haitian TPS holder in Florida who has lived in the United  
4 States for fifteen years, including as a high school student and during his entire adult life. A.C.A.  
5 has many family members in the United States. His mother and two brothers are all U.S. citizens  
6 or lawful permanent residents. His U.S. citizen brother filed a visa petition for A.C.A., but due to  
7 the backlog, it will be many years before he is eligible to apply for a green card. A.C.A. works in  
8 healthcare administration and relies on TPS for his work authorization as well as his legal status.  
9 He is currently in college studying accounting at a public university and also relies on TPS for in-  
10 state tuition, covered by a full scholarship. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis recently signed a law  
11 prohibiting undocumented students from paying in-state tuition at Florida colleges and  
12 universities. As a result, higher education would be prohibitively expensive for A.C.A. if he were  
13 to lose his TPS status because of Defendants' actions. A.C.A. is afraid to return to Haiti due to the  
14 violence and instability which has not abated in the fifteen years since he left. Since the decision  
15 to shorten the timeframe for TPS for Haiti was announced, he has been experiencing severe  
16 anxiety and nightmares about being deported.

17 188. **Plaintiff Sherika Blanc** lives in Kentucky. She has four U.S. citizen children and is  
18 married to a U.S. citizen. Sherika also has other family in the United States, including her parents,  
19 who have TPS, and a brother who has applied for a green card. She is now 34 years old, and has  
20 not returned to Haiti since she was eight. Sherika has had TPS or DACA since 2010. Her TPS  
21 status provided her with the opportunity to work, buy a car, rent a house, and raise a family in the  
22 United States. She is a certified nursing assistant and works as a medical coordinator. She also  
23 owns her own nail salon. Sherika is a primary financial supporter for her daughters and depends  
24 on TPS for her work authorization, in addition to her legal status. Without TPS, Sherika would not  
25 be able to provide for her four U.S. citizen children. If she is unable to remain in the United States,  
26 Sherika would be forced to choose between leaving her U.S. citizen children and husband behind  
27 and returning to Haiti alone, or bringing her family to Haiti to live under the constant threat of  
28



1 deadly gang violence while facing conditions of crippling poverty and food and housing  
2 insecurity. Sherika was a plaintiff in *Ramos v. Nielsen*.

3 189. **Plaintiff Viles Dorsainvil** is a resident of Springfield, Ohio since 2021 and a TPS  
4 holder from Haiti. He is the director and co-founder of the Haitian Community Help & Support  
5 Center, a nonprofit founded to assist the Haitian immigrant community in Springfield. Viles holds  
6 a Master of Divinity degree from The United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica  
7 and served as the Executive Director of the Haitian Association of the United Nations for seven  
8 years. Viles is deeply committed to advancing the well-being of immigrants and refugees,  
9 particularly the Haitian community in Clark County, Ohio. In 2024, when, as candidates, Vice  
10 President J.D. Vance and President Trump began spreading false accusations about the Haitian  
11 immigrant community in Springfield, Viles saw and felt the harm, fear, and threats of violence  
12 that followed. He felt compelled to speak out and publicly denounced the hate and racism that  
13 Trump and his supporters aimed at Haitian immigrants. Viles, like many of the community  
14 members served by the Haitian Community Help & Support Center, relies on TPS for work  
15 authorization and protection from deportation. If TPS for Haiti is terminated, Viles will lose the  
16 ability to work and live in the United States. However, he fears returning to Haiti, where  
17 widespread violence makes it impossible to live and work safely.

18 190. **Plaintiff G.S.** is a Haitian-trained medical doctor who works as a housing case  
19 manager for the State of Massachusetts, providing essential housing assistance to low-income  
20 residents of the state. If TPS for Haiti expires in August, G.S. will lose his protection from  
21 deportation and only form of legal status in the United States. However, he fears returning to  
22 Haiti, having left his country due to widespread gang violence. The uncertainty of his TPS status  
23 has left G.S. feeling hopeless and drained of motivation.

#### 24 **Harm to Communities and the Public**

25 191. TPS holders are an integral part of the economic and social fabric of U.S.  
26 communities, and they give back to the country in countless ways. Venezuelan and Haitian TPS  
27 holders are health care providers, factory workers, engineers, agricultural workers, childcare  
28 providers, educators, and students. They are active in civic life and volunteer at schools,

neighborhood and work organizations, and religious institutions. They pay federal, state, and local taxes, and support government social welfare programs. Summarily withdrawing hundreds of thousands of people from the workforce will strain the social safety net and have economic repercussions on citizen and noncitizen communities alike.

192. Recognizing the diverse public benefits of designating countries for TPS when they are in the midst of crisis, the mayors of 33 cities urged Secretary Mayorkas in 2023 to extend TPS for Venezuela and other countries. Among the public benefits these local leaders emphasized were adding eligible workers to the workforce, taking pressure off the social safety net by allowing beneficiaries to secure work and be self-sufficient, and helping to clear the asylum backlog.<sup>203</sup>

193. In this litigation, 17 states and the District of Columbia (“the Amici States”)—collectively home to at least 99,900 Venezuelan immigrants—filed an amicus brief in support of postponing the effective date of the Venezuela vacatur pending adjudication of Plaintiffs’ claims.<sup>204</sup> The Amici States explain that the public interest favors postponement because Defendants’ actions would inflict massive harm.<sup>205</sup> First, the unlawful vacatur would separate families, “devastate children,” and “fracture Amici States’ communities and schools.”<sup>206</sup> The Amici States note that, as of 2022, “approximately 54,000 U.S. citizen children and 80,000 U.S. citizen adults [throughout the United States] lived with a Venezuelan TPS holder.”<sup>207</sup> Thus, over “130,000 U.S. citizens lived in ‘mixed status’ households with [Venezuelan] individuals whom DHS seeks to unlawfully strip of their legal status—and this figure does not account for the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who were newly eligible under the 2023 designation.”<sup>208</sup> Deportations of TPS members would directly tear apart families, schools, and communities while burdening U.S. citizen children with “financial instability, housing and food insecurity, and

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<sup>203</sup> Letter from Cities for Action Mayors to Secretaries Mayorkas and Blinken (Sept. 6, 2023), [https://www.citiesforaction.us/expand\\_tps\\_protections](https://www.citiesforaction.us/expand_tps_protections).

<sup>204</sup> Dkt. 62 at 2.

<sup>205</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>206</sup> *Id.* at 4 (cleaned up).

<sup>207</sup> *Id.*

<sup>208</sup> *Id.*

1 disruptions in their education.”<sup>209</sup> Meanwhile, the fear of deportation inflicts severe psychological  
 2 harm on TPS holders and their loved ones. Such fear can cause members of affected  
 3 communities—“including those born in the United States”—to refrain from important activities  
 4 such as driving, attending religious services, participating in afterschool activities, and seeking  
 5 medical care.<sup>210</sup>

6 194. Second, the Amici States emphasize that the unlawful Venezuela vacatur would  
 7 deplete their economies and workforces.<sup>211</sup> They estimate that “[t]he annual economic  
 8 contribution of TPS-eligible Venezuelans is \$11.5 billion.”<sup>212</sup> Moreover, they note that “TPS  
 9 holders from all countries [including Venezuela, Haiti, and other nations] paid \$3.1 billion in  
 10 federal taxes, contributing to programs like Social Security and Medicare, and paid \$2.1 billion in  
 11 state and local taxes.”<sup>213</sup> Unlawfully eliminating TPS designations threatens these valuable  
 12 contributions.

13 195. Third, the Amici States stress how Defendants’ actions would compromise public  
 14 health and increase health care costs.<sup>214</sup> They explain that eliminating hundreds of thousands of  
 15 TPS holders’ work authorizations “would deprive many of those individuals and their families of  
 16 their employer-sponsored health insurance,” thus increasing the number of people on public health  
 17 insurance and “increasing public expenditures on emergency care provided to uninsured  
 18 patients.”<sup>215</sup> Moreover, the aforementioned fear of deportation would harm public health by  
 19 discouraging former TPS holders from seeking treatment or preventative care (including  
 20 vaccinations).<sup>216</sup>

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 23 <sup>209</sup> *Id.* at 4–6.

24 <sup>210</sup> *Id.* at 5–7.

25 <sup>211</sup> *Id.* at 7.

26 <sup>212</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>213</sup> *Id.* at 8.

28 <sup>214</sup> *Id.* at 9–12.

<sup>215</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>216</sup> *Id.* at 10–12.

196. Fourth, the Amici States highlight how Defendants’ unlawful actions and the resulting fear of deportation would inflict yet another harm: undermining law enforcement.<sup>217</sup> “Fear of removal, or of having a family or community member removed, makes victims and witnesses reluctant to come forward, to testify in court, and even to seek safety in a domestic violence shelter.”<sup>218</sup> The Amici States point out that “[w]hen law enforcement is unable to obtain evidence of crimes and maintain witness cooperation at trial, public safety suffers.”<sup>219</sup>

197. TPS for Venezuela and Haiti is serving the exact purpose intended by Congress—providing nationality-based humanitarian immigration relief due to the severe instability of these countries, regardless of whether individuals meet the narrow eligibility requirements for other forms of humanitarian protection, such as asylum.<sup>220</sup>

## **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

### **FIRST CLAIM**

#### **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Venezuela Vacatur)**

#### **(Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Venezuelan Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

198. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

199. The Administrative Procedure Act<sup>221</sup> ensures that federal agencies are accountable to the public by providing a “right of review” to any “person suffering legal wrong because of agency action, or adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action.”<sup>222</sup> Judicial review is generally limited to “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court.”<sup>223</sup>

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<sup>217</sup> *Id.* at 12–13.

<sup>218</sup> *Id.* at 12.

<sup>219</sup> *Id.*

<sup>220</sup> *See generally* Brief of Amici Curiae, Immigration Law Scholars, *Ramos v. Nielsen*, Case No. 18-16981, ECF No. 30-2 at 2 (9th Cir Feb. 7, 2019).

<sup>221</sup> 5 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*

<sup>222</sup> 5 U.S.C. 702.

<sup>223</sup> 5 U.S.C. 704.

200. The APA empowers the federal courts to “hold unlawful and set aside agency action, findings, and conclusions” that are “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations,” or “without observance of procedure required by law.”<sup>224</sup> The right of review under the APA includes a right to judicial review of “legal question[s] of statutory authority,”<sup>225</sup> and review of “executive agency action for procedural correctness.”<sup>226</sup> To engage in procedurally appropriate decision-making, an agency must ordinarily “display awareness that it *is* changing position.”<sup>227</sup> Agencies “may not . . . depart from a prior policy *sub silentio* or simply disregard rules that are still on the books.”<sup>228</sup> And the APA requires a “more detailed justification . . . for disregarding facts and circumstances that underlay . . . the prior policy.”<sup>229</sup>

201. Defendants’ February 3, 2025 vacatur of the TPS extension for Venezuela constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court,” pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 704, because the Defendants’ vacatur has resulted in all of the individual Venezuelan Plaintiffs and tens of thousands of members of Plaintiff NTPSA losing TPS protection until October 2026, which had been granted to them pursuant to the January 17, 2025 extension, “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.”<sup>230</sup>

202. Defendants’ vacatur of the TPS extension decision made on January 17, 2025 exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because, among other things:

a) The TPS statute carefully regulates the length of TPS extensions, the conditions under which TPS may be terminated, and the timetable for doing so. Defendants had no authority to annul a TPS extension under the timetable and procedures they utilized here.

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<sup>224</sup> 5 U.S.C. 706(2)(A), (C), (D).

<sup>225</sup> *In re Border Infrastructure Env’t Litig.*, 915 F.3d 1213, 1222 (9th Cir. 2019).

<sup>226</sup> *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*, 556 U.S. 502, 513 (2009).

<sup>227</sup> *Id.* at 515.

<sup>228</sup> *Id.*

<sup>229</sup> *Id.* at 515–16.

<sup>230</sup> 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

b) Defendants objected to the January 2025 extension for allowing 2021 TPS holders to re-register under the 2023 extension, but failed to consider that 2021 TPS holders were necessarily eligible for TPS under the 2023 designation as well.<sup>231</sup>

c) Defendants' decision rested on a misinterpretation of the TPS statute's flexible registration requirements and failed to "consider the alternatives that are within the ambit of the existing policy" before vacating the January 17, 2025 extension in its entirety.<sup>232</sup>

d) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela Designation, are themselves illegal.

e) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

f) The decision presupposed that prior TPS designations or extensions can be rescinded merely because of policy disagreements between administrations.

g) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual.<sup>233</sup>

h) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute and deviating from past practice and rules regarding the applicable process.

203. Venezuelan Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful vacatur.

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<sup>231</sup> See *San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace v. U.S. Nuclear Regul. Comm'n*, 100 F.4th 1039, 1055–56 (9th Cir. 2024) ("An agency action is arbitrary and capricious if . . . the agency has . . . entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem.") (citation omitted).

<sup>232</sup> *DHS v Regents of the Univ. of Cal.*, 591 U.S. 1, 30 (2020) (cleaned up, citation omitted); see *Fed. Election Comm'n v. Akins*, 524 U.S. 11, 25 (1998) ("If a reviewing court agrees that the agency misinterpreted the law, it will set aside the agency's action and remand the case[.]").

<sup>233</sup> Cf. *Dep't of Com. v. New York*, 588 U.S. 752, 784–85 (2019) (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).

## SECOND CLAIM

### **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Venezuela Termination) (Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Venezuelan Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

204. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

205. The order terminating the 2023 TPS designation for Venezuela constitutes “final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court” under 5 U.S.C. 704 because it will result in TPS holders’ loss of TPS “automatically and without further notice or right of appeal.”<sup>234</sup>

206. Defendants’ termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because:

a) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2023 Venezuela Designation, are illegal.

b) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.

c) The decision relied entirely on a determination that an extension of TPS would be “contrary to the national interest,” but that factor is only relevant at the time of designation; it is not a valid consideration when assessing whether to extend or instead terminate TPS.

d) The research, consultation, and review process leading up to the decision deviated dramatically from past practice without explanation.

e) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual.<sup>235</sup>

f) To the extent Defendants engaged in any process, it was so deficient as to amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute.

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<sup>234</sup> 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

<sup>235</sup> *Cf. Dep’t of Com.*, 588 U.S. at 784–85 (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).



207. Venezuelan Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful termination.

### THIRD CLAIM

#### **Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act (Haiti Partial Vacatur) (Plaintiff NTPSA and Individual Haitian Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

208. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

209. Defendants' February 24, 2025 partial vacatur of the TPS extension and redesignation for Haiti constitutes "final agency action for which there is no other adequate remedy in a court," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 704, because the Defendants' partial vacatur has cut short the TPS protection that had been granted to all of the individual Haitian Plaintiffs and Haitian TPS holder members of Plaintiff NTPSA pursuant to the July 1, 2024 extension and redesignation, "automatically and without further notice or right of appeal."<sup>236</sup>

210. Defendants' partial vacatur of the TPS extension and redesignation published in the July 1, 2024 notice exceeded their statutory authority and was arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, pretextual, and deviated from past practice, including because:

- a) Defendants had no authority to annul a TPS extension and redesignation under the timetable and procedures they utilized here.
- b) The decision assumed that TPS designations, including the 2024 Haiti redesignation, are themselves illegal.
- c) The decision assumed that TPS holders are present in the United States illegally.
- d) The decision presupposed that prior TPS designations or extensions can be rescinded merely because of policy disagreements between administrations.
- e) The decision assumed prior TPS designations or extensions can be rescinded merely because a new administration deemed prior Federal Register notices insufficiently detailed.

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<sup>236</sup> 8 C.F.R. 244.19.

f) The decision assumed that the Secretary has an obligation to explain specifically why the particular length of any TPS extension was chosen.

g) The decision rests on the erroneous legal conclusion that six months is the “default” period for TPS extensions, such that any deviation from it requires separate justification.

h) The decision rests on the erroneous legal conclusion that Secretary Mayorkas was required to consider whether extending Haiti’s TPS designation was contrary to the national interest of the United States, when that factor is relevant only to a new designation, not to an extension.

i) The decision assumed that the Secretary has an obligation to specifically explain why a designation is not contrary to the national interest.

j) The decision occurred under circumstances and a timeline that reflect that it was pretextual.<sup>237</sup>

k) To the extent there is any authority to vacate a TPS extension, and to the extent Defendants engaged in any process for review of the prior TPS extension for Haiti, that process was so deficient as to amount to no process at all, defeating the purpose of the TPS statute and deviating from past practice and rules regarding the applicable process.

211. Haitian Plaintiffs (including Haitian NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury from the unlawful partial vacatur.

#### **FOURTH CLAIM**

##### **Violation of the Equal Protection Guarantee of the**

##### **Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment**

##### **(All Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)**

212. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs.

213. The Fifth Amendment contains an implicit guarantee of equal protection that invalidates any official action that in part reflects a racially discriminatory intent or purpose.

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<sup>237</sup> *Cf. Dep’t of Com.*, 588 U.S. at 784–85 (reversing agency action because stated reason for decision was pretextual).

Classifications based on race, ethnicity, or national origin receive exacting scrutiny, and even facially neutral policies and practices will be held unconstitutional when they reflect a pattern unexplainable on grounds other than race.<sup>238</sup>

214. Defendants' decisions to vacate the January 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela, terminate the 2023 Venezuela Designation, and partially vacate the July 2024 TPS extension and redesignation for Haiti are unconstitutional because they were motivated, at least in part, by intentional discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.

215. Plaintiffs (including Venezuelan and Haitian NTPSA members) will suffer irreparable injury resulting from the illegal vacatur and termination of the 2023 Venezuela Designation and the illegal partial vacatur of the 2024 Haiti extension and redesignation.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiffs ask this Court to grant the following relief:

1. Declare that Defendants' vacatur of the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela, purported termination of TPS for Venezuela on February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur of Haiti's July 1, 2024 TPS extension and redesignation were unlawful under the APA and unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment;

2. Declare that Defendants have no authority to vacate a TPS extension under 8 U.S.C. 1254a;

3. Declare that the January 17, 2025 TPS extension for Venezuela and the July 1, 2024 TPS extension and redesignation for Haiti remain in effect under the terms specified in those decisions, 90 Fed. Reg. 5961-01 and 89 Fed. Reg. 54484-01;

4. "Set aside" Defendants' vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur order of February 24, 2025 as beyond Defendants' authority and/or unlawful under the APA;

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<sup>238</sup> *Bolling v. Sharpe*, 347 U.S. 497, 499 (1954); *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 265–66 (1977).

5. Postpone or stay the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur order of February 24, 2025 from taking effect or being put into effect;

6. Enjoin and restrain all Defendants, and their officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and all other persons who are in active concert or participation with any of them from enforcing the vacatur order of February 3, 2025, termination order of February 5, 2025, and partial vacatur order of February 24, 2025;

7. Order Defendants to take all steps necessary to ensure that Venezuela's January 17, 2025 TPS extension and Haiti's July 1, 2024 TPS extension and redesignation remain in full force and effect;

8. Grant an award of attorneys' fees and costs; and

9. Grant any other and further relief that this Court may deem fit and proper.

Date: March 20, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ACLU FOUNDATION  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

/s/ \* Emilou MacLean

Emilou MacLean  
Michelle (Minju) Y. Cho  
Amanda Young (*admission pending*)

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8 Erik Crew (*pro hac vice pending*)

9 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

10 \* Filer attests that all signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the  
11 filing's content and have authorized the filing.